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OPINION METER

This week's poll:
With the rising cost of food, fuel, and utilities, are you still able to set aside a portion of your paycheck for savings?

Let your voice be heard!
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to cast your vote.

INSIDE



Bankrupt

Aloha Airlines said Sunday it will halt all passenger service after Monday.

BUSINESS...Page 13

'GMA Resign!'

Hundreds of Filipinos in Hong Kong demonstrated to demand the resignation of President Gloria Arroyo.

ASIA...Page 16



Pritzker Awardee

French architect Jean Nouvel is the winner of the 2008 Pritzker Architecture Prize.

LIFE & STYLE...Page 18

'Federalization, wage hikes could hinder tourism growth' **PAGE 3**

Website honors servicemembers from territories, FAS. **PAGE 7**

Fund drawdowns seen to reach \$122M by September

By **AGNES E. DONATO**
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REPORTER

The NMI Retirement Fund has liquidated nearly \$70 million in assets to pay retiree

benefits as of February 2008.

By Sept. 30, 2008, the pension program will have withdrawn \$122 million of assets. This includes \$45 million for fiscal year 2008 alone.

Oscar Camacho, vice chairman of the Fund board of trustees, said the retirement agency was "forced" to liquidate the assets from its investments in order to meet monthly pension obligations.

The CNMI government has not remitted any contribution to the Fund since March 2006.

"These drawdowns of the Fund's in-

See **FUND** on Page 4

DPH lowers circumcision bill of patient

By **RIANNE PANGELINAN-BROWN**
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REPORTER

The Department of Public Health has lowered the hospital bill of the patient who was billed \$7,901.82 for a circumcision.

According to the patient's mother, she received a phone call from DPH chief financial officer Esther Muna letting her know of her son's new bill.

The mother now owes the hospital \$2,089.90 for her son's recent procedure.

She explained that, although she is still not satisfied, "it's a lot better than having to pay \$8,000."

See **DPH** on Page 4

2008 aviation conference draws record participants

By **MARK RABAGO**
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ASSISTANT EDITOR

The 2008 Pacific Aviation Directors Workshop kicked off yesterday at the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan with the three-day conference breaking the record for turnout, according to Commonwealth Ports Authority acting executive director Lee Cabrera.

Cabrera, in a telephone interview, said the first day of the workshop saw more than 176 participants register for the event.

"It was an excess of 176 registrants.

See **AVIATION** on Page 4

Daycares to DCCA: Pay up

- Daycare centers complain of non-payment by DCCA
- Childcare certificate holders may be denied service

By **RIANNE PANGELINAN-BROWN**
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REPORTER

When supervision of the daycare centers in the CNMI was transferred from the Public School System to the Department of Community and Cultural Affairs in January, one of the conditions was for DCCA to pay the daycare centers promptly.

See **DAYCARES** on Page 4



A child-care center administrator signs a letter addressed to Department of Community and Cultural Affairs acting Secretary Melvin Faisao regarding the delay in paying childcare providers during the CNMI Daycare Association's meeting yesterday afternoon. Inset, members and officials of the CNMI Daycare Association during yesterday's meeting.

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

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Local



Lt. Gov. Timothy Villagomez pose with Division of Youth Services director Debra Inos and staff, 2007 Little Miss Marianas Kayla Sablan Borja, representatives of the Department of Community and Cultural Affairs, Community Guidance Center, Division of Women's Affairs, and various government and private agencies after the proclamation signing ceremony designating April as the Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention Month in the CNMI at the Governor's conference room on Capital Hill yesterday.

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Campaign seeks to prevent child abuse

By RIANNE PANGELINAN-BROWN
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REPORTER

Lt. Gov. Tim Villagomez endorsed yesterday the month of April as Child Abuse Awareness Month—an annual awareness campaign in the Commonwealth against child abuse in all its forms.

The proclamation signaled the month-long campaign that seeks to increase community involvement in preventing child abuse cases in the CNMI. April 2008 would feature parenting and community activities geared toward an enhanced educational campaign on how to detect, prevent, and report child abuse incidents in the community.

Grace Christian Academy's Peter Camacho shared that, despite the annual campaign against child abuse, there are still many cases of this in the community.

"Abused children believe that they have no value, believe that they cannot affect the world around them with good behavior, and are often angry and depressed," Camacho said.

Abusive parents and care-

takers often vent their frustrations on children under their care in response to their own anger and unhappiness.

San Vicente Elementary School student Jodi Reyes read aloud the proclamation before Villagomez signed it.

The lieutenant governor emphasized the need for the community to take part in learning more about child abuse and how it affects families and community.

"It is our job as adults to love, nourish, protect them [children] and not harm them. With the stresses in today's parenting, let us redirect our stress toward other directions and not to our children. Abuse is not part of the local culture; it goes against our tradition," Villagomez told the audience in yesterday's signing ceremony at the Governor's Office.

"It is important that we come together as a community to educate our people about the bad effects of child abuse and neglect. It is also important to teach proper parenting skills that would help eliminate cases of abuse," Camacho said.

Changes sought in rules on House session notices

A freshman lawmaker wants the rules of the House of Representatives amended to require full public notice of sessions and committee meetings, and improve public access to legislative records.

Rep. Tina Sablan in her resolution said that "full and fair notice of legislative meetings and access public records of the Legislature will help ensure openness, transparency, and accountability of the Legislature."

Under the proposed House rules, the notice period for holding special session will be three business days, rather than one day.

Written notices must be delivered to each member of the House either personally, by facsimile, or by electronic mail. Copies must be distributed to the local media, and posted on the website of the CNMI Legislature.

Notice requirements may be waived if a special session is called to deal with

an emergency "involving injury or damage to persons or property."

The same notice requirement will apply to regular meetings of House members. The proposed House rules will prohibit changes to the agenda once it has been filed with the House clerk, unless the majority of the House members present and voting agree to the changes.

Furthermore, the proposed rules will prohibit the House from placing on the calendar for first and final reading any bills received from the Senate.

Sablan also wants the House budget plan, financial status report of individual members, and audit report of House financial accounts and inventory record to be posted on the CNMI Legislature's website for access by the public.

The proposed rules will also mandate the Legislative Bureau to post all public records of the Legislature on the website. (Agnes E. Donato)



Sablan

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'Federalization, wage hikes could hinder growth'

By **MARK RABAGO**
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ASSISTANT EDITOR

The federalization issue hovering over the Commonwealth and the tiered increases in the minimum wage the next six years may weigh heavily on the growth of the CNMI's tourism industry.

DPS insurance checkpoints this Friday

By **MARK RABAGO**
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ASSISTANT EDITOR

With about 4,000 unlicensed vehicles on the highways of the CNMI, the Traffic Division of the Department of Public Safety will be zeroing on the problem by holding a couple of Mandatory Liability Auto Insurance checkpoints this Friday.

"We will be conducting insurance checkpoints because our statistics from 2000-2008 indicate that approximately 4,000 vehicles are unregistered. We can just assume that if you have an unregistered vehicle out there, you probably have an uninsured vehicle," said Traffic OIC Sgt. Tom Blas.

He said current regulations at Bureau of Motor Vehicles state that a person cannot register their vehicle unless it has insurance.

"For that matter alone, we can assume that those vehicles are uninsured. That's a big number," added Blas. "[Having no insurance] is a big burden for victims of car crashes. It usually turns out that the victim forks out the cost to fix his or her vehicle plus medical costs."

Two Mandatory Liability Auto

DPH revs up for Kick Butts Day

By **RIANNE PANGELINAN-BROWN**
rienne_pangelinan@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

To encourage the youth to take a stand, speak up and seize control in the fight against tobacco, the Department of Public Health Community Guidance Center will be holding its 4th Annual Kick Butts Day rally tomorrow, from 5pm to 8pm.

Like the three previous KBD events, this year's event will include participants from public and private schools, youth centers, children and youth programs, and agencies and organizations—all linking up to promote a "drug-free CNMI."

The Kick Butts Day will include a march from the Garapan Fishing Base to the Carolinian Affair's Office, where various presenters will feature their Drug-Free programs.

All schools participating in this event are encouraged to bring their school banner as a show of school spirit and representation.

Schools will also compete for 10-year Perpetual Plaques. There will be four events during the event: Most Butts Collected for 6th-8th graders; Most Spirited Dance Contest for 6th graders; Most Spirited Dance Contest

This was the assessment made by First Hawaiian Back economics consultant Dr. Leroy Laney during an interview with the *Saipan Tribune* last Friday following his presentation at the monthly Saipan Chamber of Commerce meeting at the Saipan Grand Hotel.

"That [federal control of im-

migration] could have implication on the tourism industry and I think that's in terms of a longer term economic development perspective. With the minimum wage and with the U.S. controlling immigration, if that happens, I think the CNMI has to say goodbye to any kind of growth engine that depends on low wage labor.

tance Program, or MCSAP.

According to PO2 Joey Cruz MCSAP is a federal grant program that provides financial assistance to states to reduce the number and severity of crashes and hazardous materials incidents involving commercial motor vehicles.

It's got to be something else and the question is what's that going to be?" he said.

Laney, who is also an economics and finance professor at the Hawaii Pacific University and worked under Federal Reserve chair Allan Greenspan, agreed that the lower minimum wage in the CNMI vis-à-vis Guam may attract some companies working on the military buildup there to move some of their business here, but added that the high cost of electricity in the Commonwealth could be a foil.

"You have lower minimum wage here you so you might see some but with energy costs here being what they are it might be more expensive, so might as well do it in Guam."

As far as Japanese tourists are concerned, Laney said the Japanese outbound market are not traveling as much anymore and if they do they're not coming to places like the CNMI and Guam.

"Hawaii is in the same boat. We don't depend as much on Japanese visitors. We've got the U.S. mainland, which is still our mainstay market. We're getting a declining number of Japanese visitors," he said.

Laney added that despite the Marianas and Hawaii serving different markets in Japan, both destinations appear to be experiencing the same thing.

"We don't really compete for the same Japanese visitors. CNMI and Guam are perceived as more

of a budget destination, while Hawaii [is in the high-end spectrum]. But there must be some similarities because the markets are behaving exactly alike."

Laney also said that the weakening dollar may have translated to a stronger euro but that has not translated to more Europeans coming to the Pacific because "they have to get so far to come here."

He conceded that Hawaii, Guam, and the CNMI may get a few Europeans, "but you have to have them over to the Caribbean, Florida, Southern California, and Mexico in order to get them out here. Most budget destinations in Europe prefer the Mediterranean [because it's close and cheaper]."

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made to move



AVIATION

From Page 1

We understand from Barry Brayer [Federal Aviation Administration Micronesia Program manager] that it was more or less a record as far as the turnout was concerned."

The first day of the 2008 Pacific Aviation Directors Workshop opened with reports from the various airport managers around the region. The first series of speakers consisted of reports from Palau International Airport manager Charles Obichang, Marshall Islands Ports Authority director Jack S. Chong-Gum, RMI Directorate of Civil Aviation director Stanley Myazoe, and Federated States of Micronesia Division of Civil Aviation safety inspector Massy Halbert during the morning schedule.

They were followed after lunch by Pohnpei Ports Authority general manager Leske K. Lehsi, Kosrae International Airport manager Wadel Kinere, Chuuk International Airport manager Lukas Mori, and Yap International Airport manager Frederick Figir.

The final batch of reports were then delivered by Pago Pago International Airport manager Dave Fuimaono, Hawaii DOT Airports Division design engineer Guy Ichinotsubo, and CPA's Cabrera.

"It was a record number, not to men-

tion the number of sponsors. If an issue pertains within FAA, various concerns across all Micronesian airports, it will fall on the one-on-one afternoon session," said Cabrera during the telephone interview.

Reports primarily focused on the airports' ongoing improvement programs or AIP and status reports on runway safety and equipment. Today, Tuesday, the workshop is expected to shift gear and discuss FAA matters—primarily technical side and grant programs associated with the agency.

CPA comptroller Frances Mafnas, for her part, said the record number of registrants was welcome news for the organizing committee led by its chairman Jack Diaz. She said it was the first time that this kind of workshop had that high number of participants.

The theme for the workshop is "Planning for Aviation Growth and Infrastructure Development in Partnership with Government and Industry".

Topics for discussion include air traffic, risk management systems, flight procedures and standards, as well as

other airport related topics involving weather service, funding opportunities

and airport emergency procedures.

Invited speakers will also provide re-

ports on the much anticipated military buildup in Guam.



JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

CNMI Commonwealth Ports Authority board chair Rex Palacios delivers his report to conference participants during the 2008 Pacific Aviation Directors Workshop at the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan yesterday. Federal Aviation Administration and the Commonwealth Ports Authority sponsor the event.

DPH

From Page 1

The mother, a Chinese, had called the hospital in mid-July 2007 to ask how much it would cost to get the procedure done and was reportedly told by a hospital staff that it would cost around \$250. It was not, however, until March this year that her son went through with it.

When asked why she relied on an answer given her a year ago, and never called the hospital back to make sure the hospital still charged the same, she explained that she didn't even know the word "circumcision" as her English is very poor.

"I just learned it when my son came to me and told me he wanted to get his done," the mother said. She said her son wanted it done because most of his friends

had undergone the same procedure.

She added that it is not common in China for males to get circumcised. "Some do it, some don't," she said.

The mother said she would visit DPH's billing office today and make arrangements for payment.

She is hoping she can make arrangements to pay for at least \$100 a month until the debt is paid off.

Muna explained in an e-mail that

surgical procedures are charged based on the actual procedure plus the time spent in the operating room.

"When simple and less-weighted procedures result in a total charge that exceeds what is reasonable for the weighted procedure and there is no mention of a complication in the patient's record, DPH will impose a limited amount that would be charged for the operating room," she said.

"The [previous] rates for health services do not reflect costs of service and this has resulted in the provision of inadequate revenues to maintain public health operations," Muna added.

DPH added that the department "strives to ensure that the citizens and residents of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands have access to adequate health services and these new rates are a critical component of this effort."

DAYCARES

From Page 1

That promise, however, has not been kept, with DCCA now behind two months in disbursing payments to the islands' daycare centers.

That delay in the receipt of payments has prompted a number of daycares in the CNMI to arrive at a critical decision: They will shut their doors to recipients of childcare certificates until they receive the payments owed them.

In a meeting held yesterday afternoon, 16 daycare centers agreed to refuse admittance to holders of childcare certificates starting April 7 if they are not paid by April 4.

According to Masina Leuta, president of CNMI Daycare Association, when DCCA was established as the lead agency for childcare providers, the association provided DCCA with a list of concerns, on top of which was

the need for payments to be processed quickly, in the same manner as the Public School System had performed.

Leuta said that DCCA had promised them that it would "aggressively pursue" payment and distribute funds to childcare providers with no delay.

"Events have caused us to question that commitment because it has already been two months and we have seen nothing," Leuta said.

In a letter to DCCA acting Secretary Melvin Faisao, at least 16 daycares centers expressed their concerns about the absence of compensation.

He said that DCCA had promised them that the February payments would be distributed by March 28.

"We awaited this distribution but were informed that payments were mailed via U.S. mail. DCCA said that they would be responsible for receiving and distributing these payments. Subsequent to this communication, we were informed that the Treasury Department would not release payment to

DCCA and that all funds would be distributed via U.S. mail. This is unacceptable and contrary to the pledges by you [Faisao] and your staff," Leuta stated in the letter.

According to Tina Alverio of Smart Start Nurturing Center, she spoke with a "source" who told her that none of the daycares are in the Treasury system.

"If we're not in the system, we don't get paid," she said.

Faisao said that a new requirement implemented for childcare providers to receive payments is the submission of their 10-40.

"We're just following our findings during the transition, as well as the audit recommendation," Faisao said.

He added that during a meeting with Finance Secretary Eloy Inos, childcare providers were told that they must have a tax identification number.

"When we started to do this, they were acting like they never did this at the PSS," Faisao said.

Leuta said that some of the daycare

centers were never told of the new requirement until they started raising questions about their payments.

"And even so, the filing of our 10-40 has nothing to do with us not getting paid. Those services were provided," said one daycare owner.

Alverio said that "if they want our business—because daycare centers are businesses—10-40s and TIN numbers are at the government's disposal if they should need them.

"We're businesses, and we have to file," Leuta said.

Leuta, who owns Little Toddler Daycare, said he no longer accepts recipients of child care certificates.

"It's really difficult to do this, to turn children away. It's not their fault. But we have to take a stand," he said.

Leuta said he has a few recipients of child care certificates in his daycare but he has issued a notice letting them know that he may no longer accept them if the government does not cough up the dough.

Sixteen daycare centers—Little Toddler Daycare, Smart Start Nurturing Center, Seventh Day Adventist Development Center, Green Meadow Daycare, REQ Day & Night Childcare Center, Golden Harvest Daycare, Sunrise Daycare Center, Pacific Knight Childcare Preschool Center, Children's World Daycare, Mom's Day Care, Lil' Darlings Daycare, Smart Start Nurturing Center, Little Angel's Daycare Center, Gospel Light Day Care, Sister Remedios Day Care, and Little Toddler Daycare—have vowed to close their doors to recipients of child care certificates if they are not paid.

DCCA was officially made the lead agency for the federally funded CNMI childcare program in January 2008.

The Childcare Development Program was under PSS for the past 15 years before it was turned over DCCA.

The childcare program receives approximately \$1.7 million a year from the U.S. Child Care and Development Block Grant Program.

FUND

From Page 1

vestment does not just diminish the Fund's assets held in trust on behalf of Fund members, current retirees as well as current government employees, it will significantly impair the Fund's ability to ensure the last person who retires under the Defined Benefit Plan will be paid accordingly," Camacho told the Legislature.

He also sounded the alarm about the

Fund's looming bankruptcy. Citing a 2006 actuarial report by Buck Consultants, Camacho noted that the suspension of employer contribution from March 2006 through September 2007 has shortened the Fund's lifetime by five years.

He also recalled other scenarios provided in the actuarial report:

■ If contributions are made according to the actuary's recommendations (39.7 percent of payroll), the Fund's assets will remain positive through 2033, and perhaps longer.

■ If contributions are made accord-

ing to recent practice (24 percent of payroll), the Fund's assets will last until 2024.

■ If "uncollectible" receivables to the plan of \$125 million are repaid, the Fund's lifetime will be extended from 2024 to 2030 (at the 24-percent contribution rate).

■ If no new benefits are earned under the plan, and contributions continue according to recent practice (24 percent of payroll), the Fund's lifetime will be extended from 2024 until 2032.

■ If no new benefits are under the

plan, and contributions stop entirely, the Fund's lifetime will be shortened from 2024 to 2016.

Camacho pointed out that the Fund's lifetime may be even less than the eight years projected by the actuary.

The projections do not take into account the nonpayment of contributions beyond fiscal year 2007. Since the contribution suspension law expired on Sept. 30, 2007, the Fund has not received contribution from the CNMI government.

The projections also do not contemplate employer contributions at the 18-

percent rate.

As of Dec. 31, 2007, the Fund is owed over \$193 million in employer contributions for the three branches of government.

Autonomous agencies are also in debt by approximately \$4.56 million: Marianas Visitors Authority (\$34,684.03), Department of Public Lands (\$123,557.78), Northern Marianas College (\$2.84 million), Commonwealth Ports Authority (\$1.05 million), and the Tinian Municipal Treasury (\$517,764.30).

Exemption eyed for CUC reconnection fee

Low-income customers will be exempted from paying utility service reconnection fees under a bill before the House of Rep-

resentatives.

Customers who have had their utility service cut off must pay \$60 to get the service restored.

If enacted, House Bill 16-56 will benefit residential customers of Commonwealth Utilities Corp. who are receiving or who qualify

for the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program.

The exemption will be extended to families who have a household member with a heart illness or to an "invalid."

The bill notes that LIHEAP recipients depend on their limited monthly allowance to pay their

utility bills. However, despite getting government aid, many recipients have had their utility services disconnected because they cannot pay their share of the bills.

"It is unreasonable to expect customers who qualify for financial assistance for their utilities to be able to pay recon-

nection fees," the bill states.

The measure, sponsored by Rep. Ralph Torres and four other lawmakers, is backed by the House Committee on Public Utilities, Transportation, and Commonwealth. It now awaits vote on the House floor. *(Agnes E. Donato)*

Engine repair and power outages continue today

Contractors and power generation mechanics are repairing Cylinder No. 7 of Engine No. 5 at the Lower Base power plant. While these repairs continue, the power plant will require load shedding due to lack of available power generation. As a result of these outages, traffic lights, water and wastewater services will also be affected.

The latest rotating outage schedule is as follows:

9:00am-11:00am

Kiya 1: Lateral

Joeten Commercial Complex: CUC, Joeten Grocery, PHI Pharmacy, CNMI Rev & Taxation, Department of Public Lands, Kannat Tabla and the Stanford Hotel area; CPA should continue to self generate until advised by Power Generation

Feeder 3: Lateral

Southern of China Town, Northern Part of Gualo Rai and As Falipe

11:00am-1:00pm

Feeder 1: Individual

Streets

Portions of China Town and Upper MIHA in Garapan

Kiya 1: Entire Feeder

Southern part of Chalan Kiya, As Terlaje, Northern parts of Fina Sisu, El Toro Dandan, Kannat Tabla, Airport Road, San Vicente, Dandan, Northern Marianas College, Obyan, Laulau, Papago, Botanical Garden south, Lower Dandan, Isley Field, CPA/Airport, and As Perdido

1:00pm-3:00pm

Feeder 2: Second Partial

Beach Road Garapan at Kristo Rai Church south to San Jose intersection

3:00pm-5:00pm

Feeder 4: second Partial

Capital Hill to Kagman

5:00pm-7:00pm

Kiya 4: Second Partial

Susupe Court House south of Portions of Chalan Kanoa

7:00pm-9:00pm

Kiya 2: Second Partial

As Lito south to Koblerville, San Antonio, Afetnas, As Gonno

9:00pm-10:00pm

Feeder 7: Entire Grid

Lower Base industrial area, north to Tanapag, Achugao, San Roque, As Matuis to Marpi

Should the Second Partial outages of the above grids be insufficient to stabilize generation capacity, the First Partial and additional feeders not listed above may also be affected. *(CUC)*

Navy donates WWII Japanese sub to National Park Service

SANTA RITA, Guam—The National Park Service T. Stell Newman Visitor's Center will be home to a World War II Japanese midget submarine starting April 1.

U.S. Naval Forces Marianas is transferring possession of the submarine to the National Park Service in an effort to provide the

public access to view the artifact.

The submarine, a Ko-Hyoteki (Target A) Hei Gata (Type C) class, was captured after running aground in 1944 on Togcha Beach in Talofoto. It was then placed on exhibit at Camp Dealy in Togcha Bay until 1952, when it was moved to U.S. Naval Base Guam.

In the future, the Navy plans to provide the National Park Service other World War II-era artifacts, such as military uniforms, medals, ribbons, bottles, and artillery shells.

The T. Stell Newman Visitor's Center is located outside the main gate of U.S. Naval Base Guam. *(USN)*

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STAYWELL DONATION

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

StayWell Insurance Saipan office manager Jesse D. Torres and marketing representative Connie C. Dunn hand over a \$1,000 check donation to NMC president Dr. Carmen Fernandez and NMC director for institutional advancement Mark Mendiola during a brief turnover ceremony at the NMC campus yesterday. Staywell's generous donation will be used to support the upcoming Annual Northern Marianas College Foundation's Golf Tournament.

Shimabukuro in electrifying performance

Ukulele virtuoso Jake Shimabukuro wowed hundreds of fans during his one-night concert held Thursday last week at the Saipan World Resort.

Dubbed "A Magical Night of Ukulele with Jake Shimabukuro," the concert was a fundraising event for the Hotel Association of the Northern Mariana Islands and Beautify CNMI!, both non-profit organizations.

Celebrated for his lightning-fast fingers and a repertoire that transcends musical genres, Jake showcased his virtuosic dexterity and high performance level that left the audience mesmerized and yearning for more.

Jake's latest album, "My Life," features cover tunes, which includes the Beatles' *In My Life*, Sarah McLachlan's *Ice Cream*, and Led Zeppelin's *Going to California*.

Hawaiian-born ukulele virtuoso Jake Shimabukuro displays his astounding talent to the crowd.

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ



Jake Shimabukuro signs autograph for hundreds of adoring fans.

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ



Saipan Community School students show their love for Jake with a cheer.

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ



Hardworking concert volunteers gather for a photo with Jake Shimabukuro after the successful Hotel Association of Northern Mariana Islands and Beautify CNMI fundraising concert dubbed "A Magical Night of Ukulele with Jake Shimabukuro" at the Saipan World Resort open theater Thursday.

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ



Children patiently wait in line to have their ukuleles signed by Jake Shimabukuro.

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ



Jake Shimabukuro poses with members of the Olomwaay Band, Friends of the Mariana Islands Maritess Castillo, and Beautify CNMI's Cinta Kaipat and Angelo Villagomez.

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ



Saipan's ukulele whiz kid Shin Kimura demonstrates his amazing talent to Jake.

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ



Saipan Community School students and SCS's general music teacher Debbie Winkfield have their picture taken with their ukulele hero Jake Shimabukuro.

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ



Hotel Association of Northern Mariana Islands president Lynn Knight and Beautify CNMI's Cinta Kaipat extend their appreciation to the audience after the successful show.

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Website honors servicemembers from territories, FAS

The website of the Office of Insular Affairs now features a section devoted solely to the members of the U.S. military who come from the U.S. territories and the freely associated states.

Called Military Highlights, this new section of the OIA website is intended to raise awareness and showcase the military service as given by those from the U.S. territories and the freely associated states.

"The Department of the Interior's Office of Insular Affairs recognizes that hundreds of sons and daughters of the U.S. Insular Areas currently serve in the War on Terror in all branches of the U.S. Armed Forces. According to estimates, the number of enlistees from the U.S. Insular Areas is much higher per capita compared to those from the U.S. mainland," said OIA in a statement.

The participation of the men and women in the U.S. military is needed to make this awareness-raising initiative a success.

OIA is asking military servicemembers from the U.S. territories and freely associated states to furnish it with needed information and submit them electronically along with a picture to Tanya Joshua at Tanya_Joshua@ios.doi.gov or Ryan Edgar at Ryan_Edgar@ios.doi.gov.

NMI soldier recognized, promoted

Another CNMI soldier in the U.S. Army currently stationed at the Pentagon who received recognition and was promoted was Sergeant Connie C. Williams. Her promotion follows in the footsteps of U.S. Army Major Edwin A. Castro who was promoted to U.S. Army Lieutenant Colonel. Williams was promoted to U.S. Army Staff Sergeant on Feb. 4, 2008.

Williams is the daughter of Joseph Juan Cruz and Begonia Deleon Guerrero Cruz of Chalan Kiya, Saipan. She was born and raised in Saipan and graduated from Marianas High School. She is married to Sgt. Terrance Williams and they are the proud parents of a 3-year-old boy, Terrance Williams Jr. or "TJ".

In addition to her military duties, Williams is currently pursuing a degree in Computer Information Systems Management from Park University. Her promotion ceremony was attended by colleagues, family, friends and staff of the Resident Representative's Office.

"This is truly a great day for the Northern Marianas. It is quite an honor to witness our bright, young men and women ascend through the military chain of command and get recognized for all their determination, hard work, untiring commitment and patriotism," said Washington Rep. Pete A. Tenorio. (PR)

gar@ios.doi.gov.

The information must include the name, age, hometown, rank, assignment, post, enlisted or

joined from (i.e. FSM, Guam, Hawaii), and years in service (i.e. 1995 – present).

Servicemembers are also

asked to answer two questions: "Why did you join the U.S. Armed Forces?" and "What is your greatest experience being

in the U.S. Armed Forces?"

Submissions must include one picture.

Visit the Military Highlights

page at: http://www.doi.gov/oia/Firstpginfo/islanders_in_the_military/highlights.html. (Saipan Tribune)



This April at the Hyatt Regency Saipan



Roasts, Reds & Rendezvous at the Hyatt with Kendall Jackson Wines and Certified Angus Beef

Dazzle your taste buds with an array of culinary masterpieces made from the most sought after beef and paired with finest red wines. Certified Angus Beef enjoyed for its tender texture and tasty flavour is available in all our restaurants in April.

Cocktail Evening in Giovanni's

Please join us for a special cocktail evening featuring a palette of delectable flavours, robust wines and interesting conversations.

Thursday, April 3rd, 2008

6:30pm - 9:30pm

\$25.00 per person for non-CATH

\$20.00 per person for CATH members

*CATH discounts do not apply

Giovanni's

Enjoy juicy Sirloin and Ribeye steaks or savour a tender aged Tomahawk chop from a selection of Certified Angus Beef specials. Compliment the meal with our recommendation of a full bodied red wine.

From April 4th till 10th

Club at the Hyatt cards welcome



Teppanyaki

Indulge in a specially prepared set menu with Certified Angus Beef specials by Chef Joe and his team.

Set Menu is available from April 11th till 17th

\$80.00 per person

Club at the Hyatt cards welcome

Kili Cafe & Terrace

Kili Cafe & Terrace features Certified Angus Beef on its Live Stations on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays.

Tuesday - French Culinaire

Wednesday - Mexican Fiesta

Friday - Buds, Brew & Barbecue

From April 4th till 25th

\$33.00 per person

Club at the Hyatt cards welcome



Sushi at Miyako

This is an opportunity for all sushi lovers to indulge in an array of fabulous sushi artistically prepared by Chef Lito.

Sushi set menu is available from April 3rd till 25th

6:00pm - 9:00pm

\$70.00 per person

Club at the Hyatt cards welcome



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Treat your ever so efficient assistant not only to Hyatt's special lunch buffet but also to an elegant fashion show and opportunity to win exciting raffle prizes.

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Thursday, April 17th, 2008

11:00am - 2:30pm

\$25.00 per person for CATH members

\$30.00 per person for non-CATH

*CATH discounts do not apply

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COMMUNITY BRIEFS**KES sets Parent Teacher Conference**

Parents and guardians of students attending Koblerville Elementary School are informed that today, April 1, 2008, is 3rd Quarter Parent Teacher Conference Day. Report cards may be picked up from 4pm to 6pm at Koblerville Elementary School. Teachers will be available to speak with parents at this time. Student dismissal time from school on this day will be at 12:30pm—half day. Should you have any questions, call the school at 237-3622 or 237-3623. (PR)

MHS Calendar of Events

April 2 MHS Open House, Report card distribution 4pm-6pm MHS campus, students will be released at 1pm
April 21-25 SAT10 Tests
May 5-16 Advanced Place-

ment Tests

May 12-16 Standards-Based Assessment Tests
May 26 No classes (Memorial Day)
May 31 MHS Commencement Ceremony
June 3 Fourth Quarter ends

OES PTSA meeting next week

The PTSA Officers of Oleai Elementary School would like to inform the parents and guardians of Oleai Elementary School that there will be a PTSA meeting next Tuesday, April 8, 2008, 6pm, in the school cafeteria. (PR)

KagES registration starts

Kagman Elementary School will start registering children for grades Kindergarten to 5th for school year 2008-2009. Registration begins today, April 1, 2008 and ends on April 30,

2008, from 9am to 4pm daily.

Kagman Elementary School will register children from the following areas only: Kagman I, II, III, Upper Papago (Botanical Garden to Kagman), Agag, and As Teo.

Kindergarten students: Child must be 5 years old, on or before Aug. 31.

First grade students: Child must be 6 years old, on or before Aug. 31.

The following documents are required for your child(ren) to be enrolled: official registration form, birth certificate, CHC health certificate (original), transcript/report card/withdrawal from exiting school, entry permit, if not a U.S. citizen, affidavit of guardianship/power of attorney (if applicable), map of residence, and health insurance policy. All students registering must have complete documents submitted

on or before the end of the designated registration dates.

For more information, call the school at 237-3965/3966/3967. (PR)

Flame Tree Arts Festival registration opens

Registration is now open until April 17, 2008, for the 27th Annual Flame Tree Arts Festival. Registration forms are available at the Commonwealth Council for Arts and Culture on Capital Hill, Saipan. Registration costs are \$650/food and business vendors, \$350/non-profit, \$150/artists, and \$100/information. The Flame Tree Arts Festival will be held April 24-27, 2008, at Civic Center and is Micronesia's largest annual arts and culture celebration. For more information about the Flame Tree Arts Festival, contact CCAC at 670-322-9982/3 or e-mail marianasarts@pticom.com. (PR)

Flashback**A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES****April 01, 1999****Health eyes cuts to save jobs: Chief**

The Department of Public Health is planning to carry out a seven-hour work per day schedule among the administrative staff since its budget for fiscal year 2000 has only been pegged at \$33.9 million. Public Health Secretary Kevin Villagomez said the amount to be saved in work hour reduction would be used in the purchase of medical supplies. "We have no choice but to live within our means because the economic situation only permits us to operate within this level. It is really going to be difficult for us to maintain a huge facility at a very low budget," he said.

Nine in race for 'best offer'

An independent evaluator for the new power plant on Saipan will be given a free hand to undertake the second phase of review on the proposals that fell within the "competitive range" after the initial round, officials assured yesterday. The chair of the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation, Juan S. Dela Cruz, said nine companies in the list - out of 13 - would be asked to submit their "best and final offers" which is based on the recommendation of Burns & McDonnell, the private engineering firm hired for the independent review.

Governor keeps hands off NMC

The Board of Regents of the Northern Marianas College will have a free hand in choosing the next leader for the Commonwealth's only higher learning institution following the retirement of President Agnes McPhetres in December. This assurance came from Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio who said that an official announcement will soon be published to invite candidates for the position.

April 01, 2002**TF targets rehab of youth offenders**

The new Juvenile Crimes Enforcement Coalition said its ultimate goal is to rehabilitate juvenile offenders, instead of subjecting them to incarceration, which has been the usual consequence for criminal wrongdoing. "What has been discussed so far by the task force is to look into developing a program that's more geared toward putting these kids through rehabilitation and away from incarceration," Police Sgt. James C. Deleon Guerrero disclosed during a press conference last week.

NMI health clinics whine over delay in payments

The government's insurance arm, Group Health and Life Insurance Inc., has been delayed in remitting payments to its third-party administrator, Hawaii Pacific Medical Referral, leading to complaints among local health service providers about not being paid in the last two months. According to Rep. Benjamin B. Seman, several private health care providers on Saipan-TMC, Saipan Health Clinic and Island Medical Clinic had visited him to raise their concerns about HPMR not paying them in the last 60 days.

New panel eyed to help Tinian tourism

The Commonwealth Ports Authority disclosed plans to create a task force that would promote and market Tinian as a tourist destination, in anticipation of the entry of direct flights akin to the scheduled completion of the West Tinian Airport project. Board Chair Roman S. Palacios said the ports authority is urging the island's local government to consider appointing representatives from the private sector and the ports authority to complete the Tinian tourism task force.

April 01, 2003**Anti-SARS measures enforced in airports**

The Transportation Security Administration Saipan Office and the Commonwealth Ports Authority have crafted safety procedures at CNMI airports in efforts to prevent the possible entry of the mysterious disease that is on the rise in other countries.

'Redundant licensing process is primary business deterrent'

The House Committee on Commerce gathered all government regulating agencies in one room yesterday in a bid to move forward with the years-long goal of streamlining the applications process for business licenses. The meeting came following a unanimous clamor by some 25 local business owners to remove bureaucracy "at its worst" in the business license application process, according to Committee Chairman Rep. Andrew S. Salas, who has been meeting regularly with players in the business community.

The Department of Public Health's
Community Guidance Center (CGC),
and partners, is pleased to announce the...

4th ANNUAL KICK BUTTS DAY (KBD)

march and rally, on April 2, 2008, from 5:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.



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- The event features a march from the Garapan Fishing Base to the Carolinian Affairs Office.
- We encourage all schools to bring their school banner as a show of school spirit and representation.
- Schools will compete in a 10 minutes dance-off competition and most (cigarette) butts collected for a 10-year Perpetual Plaque.
- Light refreshments, educational exhibitors, entertainment, and giveaways

**For more information please contact the Community Guidance Center
at 323-6584, 85, 86, 95.**

Progress continues on project to build proa

HAGATNA, Guam—The Tourism Education Council's Project Proa continues to progress rapidly in its mission to restore traditional Chamorro seafaring activities to the Pacific region. Over the past months, the building team has reached significant milestones in the construction of a traditional Chamorro Proa.

"We are pleased at the rapid progress of our traditionally carved canoe," said Jose U. Munoz, Project Coordinator of Project Proa. "Our carvers are working with traditional materials, traditional tools and building in the traditional manner that our ancestors put forth." He went on say, "this is something that has not been done in Guam in almost 200 years."

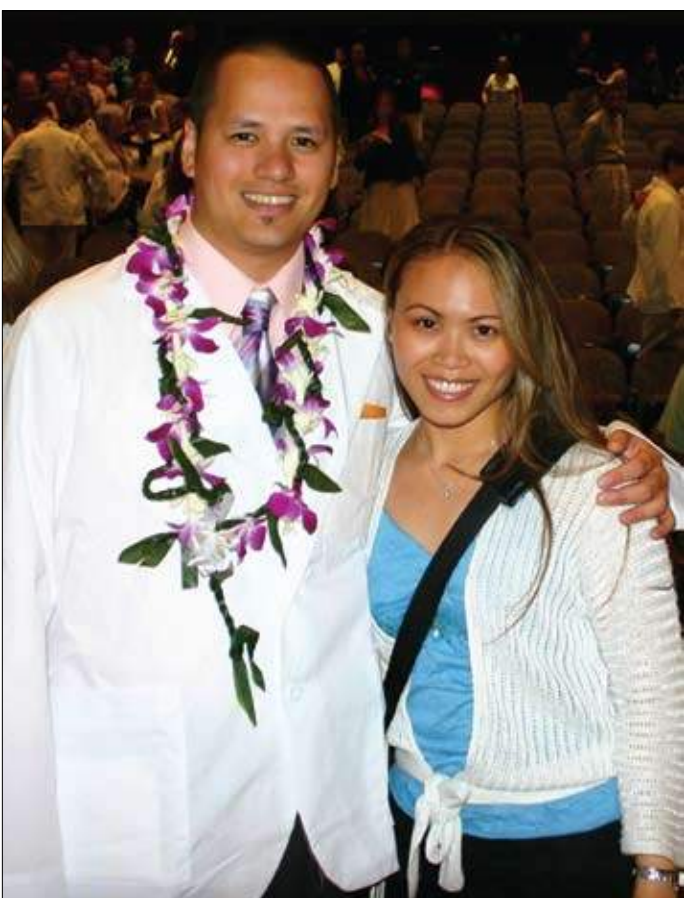
Recently, over 1000 students from local elementary and middle schools have taken advantage of Project Proa's community outreach. Site visits have been conducted, allowing young children to witness and learn more about the carving, building, and navigating skills of professional carvers from Guam and neighboring islands.

"Students from all walks of life are very interested to learn more about the Proa Canoe, how it was built and how it was sailed", Munoz said. "We hope to inspire students across our island to get involved in a sustaining way in this important tradition."

From April 10 - 12, Project Proa will continue its mission to educate and inform the community of its progress at the Pacific Hotel and Restaurant Expo (PHARE) 2008 at the Hyatt Regency Guam from 10am to 5pm. The opportunity will be available to meet with the builders and to view the presentation of Project Proa's documentary video.

"We have documented the important progress of the building of this canoe, from the time we obtained the dok-dok (seeded breadfruit) in Rota to its present day progress", said Munoz.

Project Proa's mission is to perpetuate the continuity of seafaring traditions through the collaboration of master carvers and apprentices, leading to the restoration of the vital connection the Chamorros have with the land and sea. The building is done with respect for our ancestors and the environment through ceremonial blessings and the use of felled trees. This exciting project is a testimony to the celebration and promotion of the diversity of island cultures. Through extensive documentation and strong community outreach, Project Proa is committed to educating future generations on the skill and trade of crafting a traditional seafaring vessel in hopes of inspiring similar cultural revivals throughout Guam and our neighboring islands. (PR)



YALE BOUND

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Felix T. Cabrera, son of Agnes T. Cabrera and the late Felix B. Cabrera of Chalan Piao, is a fourth year medical student at the University of Washington in Seattle and will be graduating this June. On March 20, 2008, graduating medical students all around the country learned which residency programs they've been matched with. During residency the recent graduates will begin their careers as physicians and continue their education within their selected specialty. Cabrera, shown here with wife Suzanne Lobaton Cabrera of Agat, Guam, learned that he will be heading to Yale University to begin his residency in Internal Medicine, which will take place over the next three years.



SCIENCE FAIR

Young students go through several science projects on display at the Saipan Community School during a science fair held on March 8. SUBWAY and Coca-Cola Beverage Co. (Micronesia) Inc. helped provide snacks and drinks at the event as a way of supporting the school and the students in this endeavor. SUBWAY and Coca-Cola Beverage Co. (Micronesia) Inc. have been proud sponsors of the yearly event. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

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Opinion

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

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EDITORIAL

Don't stop campaigning

The growing chorus among some Democrats and other interested observers for Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton, N.Y., to get out of the race for the Democratic Party's nomination for president is troubling. We're not promoting Ms. Clinton over Sen. Barack Obama, Ill., or either of them over Republican Sen. John McCain, Ariz., for that matter. A time may come when someone should gracefully bow out. But their extended contest informs the electorate and serves to battle-test them both. We don't see why the process should be short-circuited when millions of votes are yet to be cast and two qualified candidates believe themselves to be the best potential Democratic nominee.

There is no lack of excitement in the Democratic Party. States that have cast ballots have reported record turnouts. Registrations are through the roof. Just last week it was announced in Pennsylvania, which holds its primary April 22, that since November the number of registered Democrats increased by about 161,000. Altogether, Democrats now outnumber Republicans there by about 830,000. And this contest is far from over. While Mr. Obama leads Ms. Clinton in the popular vote and in the number of pledged delegates, it's assumed that neither candidate will win the 2,024 delegates needed to secure the nomination.

One proffered justification for ending the campaign now, in fact, is the assumption that we know pretty much how everything will turn out. Ms. Clinton will win Pennsylvania, Mr. Obama will carry North Carolina and so on. But throughout this campaign, just about everything we've "known" has been wrong: Mr. McCain was finished, Ms. Clinton was inevitable, Mr. Obama had New Hampshire locked up. No doubt the Democrats have gotten themselves into a fix with rules that may leave the final decision to unelected superdelegates—but why is the answer to that LESS democracy? Why not give as many voters as possible a chance?

We understand Democrats' concern that Mr. McCain benefits most as their candidates tear each other down. Recent polls show the favorable ratings of both Democratic candidates declining, Ms. Clinton's more than Mr. Obama's. Making the case that you're better qualified inevitably involves, to some extent, explaining that the other candidate is less so. But instead of continuing to blur the line between civil discourse and destructive denunciations, the candidates and their campaigns could talk more substance. Last week they tackled the economy and the mortgage meltdown. But there are plenty more questions for voters to consider. How would the candidates pay for their billions in increased spending on health care, energy and education? With diplomacy toward North Korea faltering, how would they handle its nuclear ambitions? What's the future of affirmative action? The list of issues to hash out is endless, and doing so in polite political combat could produce a stronger Democratic candidate for the fall and a better-informed electorate.

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Umbrellas and icebergs

FLASH! Corned beef found to be a potent aphrodisiac by Einstein Medical Center research staff. See below for details.**

Tip of the iceberg

What was the tip-off that it was going to be so expensive?

We learned the other day that a person purportedly quoted \$300 for a medical procedure (circumcision) was later charged almost \$8,000 for the job. So far we have not heard CHC's side of the story so jumping to conclusions is not a good idea. There may have been complications, or some other reason to charge such a seemingly high fee for a simple operation. Perhaps it was charged as a cosmetic surgery since the patient was 18 at the time. The customer is not sure what the flap (boo) is all about.

In England, a circumcision operation performed in a certified hospital runs between 1,000 and £1,500, according to HealthcareUK, whereas in India it can cost up to two goats. A hospital in Shanghai was reportedly charging the equivalent of U.S.\$131 for the job. I could find no information about comparative costs for an adult operation here in the CNMI, but a local doctor said he could perform the procedure for \$60 and a bottle of Jack Daniels (joking here). The typical fee for infant circumcision runs \$250 here in the CNMI and is accomplished in minutes with the use of a medical device and the skilled hands of a doctor.

On the one hand it seems prudent to pay whatever is necessary to get a quality surgical operation in so delicate a spot. On the other hand, an increase in fees from \$300 to \$8,000 seems a bit excessive. CHC cited Operating Room rental fees and rising costs as the primary culprit in the case at hand.

The moral of the story is to get an estimate before getting an elective operation. A friend of mine (who's life was saved at CHC, by the way) recently needed a heart artery bypass operation. He was quoted \$150,000 in Hawaii and \$12,000 for the same operation in a quality facility in Manila. Getting a quote ahead (sorry) of time saved him \$138,000 for which I'm sure he can find a good use. So could you.

Circumcision tip: If they quote you \$300 then charge you \$8,000 maybe you should ask 'em to sew it back on.

So how much do you tip the surgeon after such an operation?

■ ■ ■

Not a bad payday

Superior Court Associate Judge Kenneth Govendo has sentenced lawyers Reynaldo O. Yana and Antonio M. Atalig to 30 days in the Iron Bar Motel for charging what Govendo thinks is too much for their "services." He thinks they have contempt for his opinion. He is probably right.

Mathematically, it works out pretty nice. At \$1,285,500 in fees

SOUR GRAPES

By BRUCE BATEMAN

Special to the Saipan Tribune

Bruce A. Bateman writes *Sour Grapes* when the moon is full and the mood strikes. Stay tuned for each exciting episode. "Yes, he is opinionated." Email: bbateman@pticom.com; Blog: <http://saipanuvian.blogspot.com/>



that pays off at \$42, 850 per day in the hoosegow. Not bad pay by most standards. I wonder if they are eating hot dogs or caviar for lunch?

■ ■ ■

Parasol Pete

Senate President Pete Reyes says he will continue to resist holding the annual joint session/State of the Commonwealth speech in the recent traditional venue, the Multi-Purpose Center. He has quoted cost-cutting as the reason he will not allow the Senate to participate in such an event if held there. We should all be grateful to Senator Reyes for thinking about, and doing something about saving precious resources in these bleak economic times. I'm not sure what the rental fees, extra security, chairs and a few hundred bottles of water costs over at the MPC but however much if we don't spend it then we save it for other purposes.

On the other hand, Senator Reyes suggests the constitutionally mandated State of the Commonwealth address be held instead in the chamber of the House of Representatives up on the Hill. That venue is so small that it will block access to hundreds of citizens who would otherwise attend the event and hear this important message. Even at the much larger (and properly air conditioned) MPC the crowd that gathers is SRO with just about every inch filled to capacity. In the much smaller House chamber, only a small fraction of those wanting to attend will be able to do so, plus it is hot and stuffy.

Hey, if you really want to save money, Senator Reyes, just hold it outside the Legislative Building on the lawn. Then we don't need to spend for electric lighting or aircon inside and everyone who wants to can attend. Give the Governor and the DC Representative a DPS bullhorn (already paid for) and let 'em rip. Attendees: Bring an umbrella, and your own chair.

Where the heck is Saipan?

Along with a group of a hundred or so other interested persons, I attended the recent speech made by Dr. Leroy Laney, the chief

See **UMBRELLAS** on next page

EDITORIAL POLICY

The *Saipan Tribune* welcomes comments on any article, column, editorial, or topic that may be of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, CIC Centre, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Where should conversation on race start?

By ADAM GELLER
AP NATIONAL WRITER

So, we're going to get honest about race this time? Let's get started then. If only it were that simple.

We've had time to digest Sen. Barack Obama's call for a new, and more frank, examination of the "complexities of race in this country that we've never really worked our way through." Plenty of people, including some from opposite sides of the ideological fence, heard something in that speech that spoke to their hearts.

But a period of reflection makes clear that, when the power of rhetoric fades, we're conflicted not just about race, but even how to talk about it.

Candor can help, some say; others worry fresh honesty will inflame old tensions. And who is qualified to join in this conversation? It depends whom you ask. Is this only a black-white thing, or is that too limited? Can different generations, with different experiences, hear each other on this issue?

To some it sounds like a conversation—or an argument—they've been having or hearing all their lives, and one that started long before.

We live by a Constitution that began, "We the People," but declared black slaves worth only three-fifths as much as whites. From the Lincoln-Douglas faceoffs of 1858, which focused largely on what to do about slavery, to the most recent debate over renewing the Voting Rights Act, the rift over race and what to do about it has defined us.

"In some ways, he (Obama) is joining in a conversation already in progress," says Kareem Crayton, a professor of law and politics at the University of Southern California.

It's been a decade, in fact, since we set out to have the last national conversation on race. Consider where we are as we wonder how to embark on the next one.

Now is the time to wrestle with race again, says John Hope Franklin, the historian named by President Bill Clinton to lead the last effort.

Yes, says Ward Connerly, an activist who faulted the Franklin panel and has long pushed to end race-based affirmative action, it's time for Americans to level with themselves and each other about race and the legacy our attitudes have created.

So, these past antagonists agree now? Only on the desirability of introspection. They still sharply disagree on how to wrangle with the issue that has vexed the United States since even before it was established.

To many, the conversation on race is one we've never really invested with enough candor or willingness to listen.

That's clear to Jill Williams, former executive director of the Greensboro, N.C., Truth and Reconciliation Commission, formed to review the decades-old killing of five activists by the Klan.

In New York now, Williams says people hear about her experience and marvel that "racism remains so deeply ingrained in the South, and I say, 'Oh I think it's very much present here in New York,' and they look at me with shock."

Others say we need to have a conversation, but that focusing just on race, or only on tensions between blacks and whites, would be too simplistic and too divisive.

"The first thing we think about is color and



Democratic presidential hopeful Sen. Barack Obama D-Ill., takes a moment to glance at a magazine he just autographed after a town hall meeting at Greater Johnstown High School in Johnstown, Pa., Saturday, March 29, 2008.

that seems to negate anything else," says Rodney Cooper, a professor at the Charlotte, N.C., campus of Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary who previously worked across race lines in the men's evangelical group Promise Keepers.

"Let's talk about who's going to be talking about what."

The Obama speech didn't come close to answering that question. But it still gave people plenty to think about, with a poll by The Wall Street Journal and NBC News finding the public divided on whether Obama had said enough to explain his own feelings on race. The speech quickly became the most discussed video on YouTube, viewed more than 2 million times in less than 48 hours.

But, framed by their experiences, people took away very different things and offered responses that had clearly been percolating for some time.

Jay Love, a state legislator in Alabama, opposed a resolution last year apologizing for slavery because he disagreed with "apologizing for something that I didn't have a part of." Love is white and from Montgomery, a civil rights battleground. Growing up, race and its connection to political power were always part of the conversation, he says.

But unlike his parents, raised in a segregated world, Love says by the time he reached school, the student body was nearly evenly split between whites and blacks. His generation and the one that has followed are dealing with each other across race every day, and to begin a new round of highly charged debate about the past will not help move those relationships forward, he says.

"I think that we've discussed it too much, to tell you the truth," says Love, now running for Congress. "If we have this conversation, what gets accomplished? That's what I want to know. To what end?"

It's necessary medicine, people like Williams respond.

The commission she led in Greensboro was formed by citizens to take a new look at what happened in 1979 when five organizers of an anti-Ku

Klux Klan rally were killed by Klansmen and Nazi sympathizers. Some put part of the blame on the city police department, which chose not to patrol the rally. The new reconciliation group sought city backing, but the city council split along racial lines. Despite that, it compiled an extensive report.

Such scrutiny, even when it exposes festering tensions, has value, Williams says. But she doubts a broad national discussion will do the same.

"A generic dialogue on race isn't going to do it," she says. "We have gotten to the point where we know the right things to say, the wrong things to say... Where we're going to do something is if we talk about specific events," like the Greensboro rally.

At 93, Franklin has witnessed plenty of such events. Everyday details of racism that defined his Tulsa boyhood remain vivid: he recalls, for example, how he wanted to go to an opera house where blacks were not allowed, save for a single section with almost no view of the stage. "We've almost come to a position," he says, "where at least I can live like a human being without climbing up some back step."

But the incremental change only proves the value of the conversation we've long been having and the need to keep having it, he says.

Reflecting on Clinton's race panel, which was derided by critics, Franklin says, "It was clear to me that we couldn't get very far and we didn't get very far and I was very much distressed over the way in which the country reacted to what we were trying to do.

"I think this is a better time."

The irony is that he and Connerly find a bit of agreement there.

Connerly is known chiefly for his push to remove race-based preferences in California university admissions, hiring and contracts. He sounds almost a little surprised to find that Obama's speech plucked such an internal chord.

For him, though, it's an invitation to self-examination. A broad conversation might ignore the fact

that the American life today is much more complex than divisions between two races, he says. He wonders how we'd structure the conversation, or who'd be part of it.

Still, Connerly, who is black, says the value of personal honesty is that it might move people, particularly blacks, forward rather than looking back.

"There are a lot of black people who are angry and black people have to get beyond that. You can't walk around with anger for the rest of your lives. As a country we have to deal with that," he says.

Author Tom Wolfe, who described the contortions of people trying to reconcile themselves with race in books like "Radical Chic" and "Bonfire of the Vanities," sees it differently. A national conversation might work, he says, if the premise is to find ways to bring people into harmony.

"But if it's candor we're talking about, that's not so great," says Wolfe, who is white. "Candor is a form of madness and it's an ever-failing source of ill-will for everybody from husbands and wives to nations. Don't try it."

Chang-Rae Lee, author of books including "Native Speaker," that examine the lives of Korean-Americans as societal outsiders, backs a wide-ranging discussion of race, but has a different worry.

"Part of me fears such discussions might get hijacked (like everything else) by demagogues and race-baiters for their own purposes, and actually cause greater harm," Lee says in an e-mail.

Cooper, a black professor at an overwhelmingly white seminary, believes the solution may be in how we direct ourselves. In Promise Keepers, members consistently reminded themselves of the faith connecting them, even when race might have divided.

"Let's talk about what we have in common, common values, rather than what makes us different," he says.

Time, though, has shown it's not easy to begin that conversation.

Hours after Obama spoke, a white man and a black man sat across from each other, trying to pick through the minefield of prejudices in a search for common ground—and a few laughs.

"OK, car stereos," said the white guy, comedian Jon Stewart. "A lot of times when you guys are driving down the street, it's really loud. And we hate that."

The black guy, comedian Larry Wilmore, turned to the anger he feels when distrustful storekeepers watch him like a suspect. He'd worked too hard to be treated this way.

"We've all had to work, Larry!" a mock-indignant Stewart replied. "My family came to this country with nothing. They worked in factories. They worked as taxi drivers."

"Oh, you mean when your ancestors CHOSE to come here!" Wilmore retorted.

The audience emitted a giant "Ohhhhhhhh," and, for one pregnant moment, turned quiet.

"You know," Stewart offered, as if the thought just occurred to him, "maybe it's hard to see the world from a different experience from your own."

It made for a decent punchline. But it worked as comedy because it turned on a bit of truth: Trying to have a conversation about race can be downright painful.

UMBRELLAS

From Page 10

economist for First Hawaiian Bank and a professor at the University of Hawaii. His credentials are impressive, the talk he delivered was an interesting but very general account of the state of the U.S. economy and where it might be headed. He then went on to give some predictions about Guam's economic

reactions to the much-heralded military buildup.

Dr Laney had just arrived on Saipan after spending a few days on Guam while putting together the first forecast report for that island territory since 2006. What got my attention and what troubled me most about this learned man's forecasts was that none involved the CNMI directly.

In fact he disclosed that this was his first trip to the CNMI wearing his chief

economist's hat since the mid-'90s. He admitted that he "had not even heard the phrase Federalization of Immigration" until he stepped off the plane a couple of hours before delivering his remarks. Think about that for a moment. The chief economist for a company that controls about one third of the banking market share for our whole country's economy hasn't even looked at our numbers for over a decade. Things have changed just a bit since then.

To be fair, Hawaii is a state with a population of millions instead of tens of thousands. They host 7 million tourists a year, not a half million like the CNMI, so the dollars flowing in and out of their economy understandably take most of this analyst's time. Even so, one might think a glance in our direction once in a while might be in order.

Luckily we have Ed Stephens and Bill Stewart keeping an eye on the

place for us.

■ ■ ■

Quote of the week:






Hey, anybody see the new \$5 bill that just came out? The Treasury has taken steps to discourage counterfeiters, such as making it worth less than a dollar.—Jay Leno, The Tonight Show, March 20, 2008.

** April Fool's joke. It wasn't corned beef after all.

Sattelite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds near 10 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲82° ▼75°	▲82° ▼75°	▲82° ▼75°	▲82° ▼76°	▲83° ▼76°

Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Partly Sunny	▲85 ▼75
Palau	Thunderstorms	▲86 ▼77
Yap	Mostly Cloudy	▲85 ▼77
Chuuk	Partly Sunny	▲89 ▼78
Pohnpei	Cloudy	▲85 ▼74
Kosrae	Mostly Cloudy	▲87 ▼75
Majuro	Cloudy	▲84 ▼74

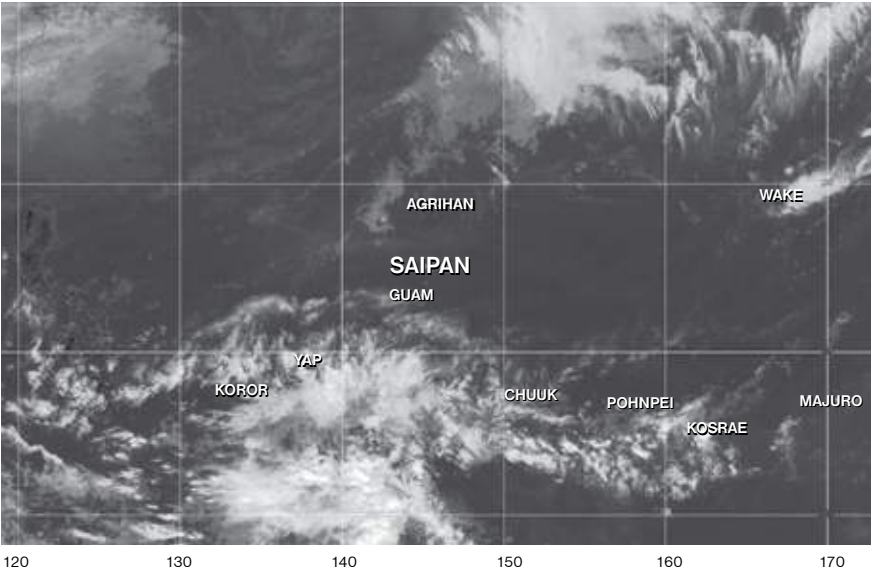
Around The Globe

Auckland	Mostly Sunny	▲64 ▼53
Beijing	Sunny	▲53 ▼36
Hong Kong	Rain	▲78 ▼71
Honolulu	Partly Sunny	▲79 ▼70
London	Partly Sunny	▲56 ▼39
Los Angeles	Showers	▲64 ▼52
Manila	Partly Sunny	▲89 ▼76
Melbourne	Windy	▲64 ▼40
Miami	Thundershowers	▲82 ▼71
New York	Mostly Sunny	▲51 ▼35
Osaka	Mostly Cloudy	▲56 ▼46
Paris	Cloudy	▲55 ▼42
Pusan	Cloudy	▲60 ▼40
Rome	Cloudy	▲67 ▼49
Salem	Cloudy	▲58 ▼33
San Francisco	Rain	▲61 ▼49
Seoul	Cloudy	▲51 ▼31
Tokyo	Cloudy	▲57 ▼45
Washington, DC	Mostly Sunny	▲54 ▼39

Tides

Saipan Harbor		
05:06AM Today	High Tide:	1.7 Feet
10:27AM Today	Low Tide:	1.2 Feet
02:57PM Today	High Tide:	1.5 Feet
10:25PM Today	Low Tide:	0.1 Feet

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, MONDAY, MAR. 31, 2008

Western North Pacific between Equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A cold front extends from 25N143E to beyond 20N130E. Scattered showers are occurring along and up to 75 miles northwest of the cold front. Further behind the cold front after a narrow break in the cloudiness there is another area of cloudiness and scattered showers extending continuously for another 110 miles to 25N. Another cold front runs southwestward from 25N176E to just south of Wake Island to 18N166E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are found within 75 miles of the front. A near-equatorial trough stretches from west of 3N130E through a weak circulation centered at 5N138E to EQ143E. Scattered showers are found between the equator and 9N from 131E to 144E. Another surface trough located west of Chuuk extends from 10N146E to 8N148E to 6N144E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are occurring within an area bounded by 10N144e to 9n149e to 4n149e back to 10N144E. Trade-wind convergence is generating scattered showers south of Pohnpei and Kosrae between 2N and 5N from 150E to 164E.

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:13AM	6:29PM
Wednesday	6:12AM	6:30PM
Thursday	6:11AM	6:30PM
Friday	6:10AM	6:30PM
Saturday	6:10AM	6:30PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	2:22AM	1:56PM
Wednesday	3:05AM	2:51PM
Thursday	3:46AM	3:45PM
Friday	4:27AM	4:40PM
Saturday	5:07AM	5:36PM

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES

- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMUT SARI Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.

CAMPUS BULLETIN

Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when),

the name of contact person, and a phone number.

- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

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- E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com or jayvee_vallejera@saipantribune.com.
- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, CIC Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
- To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MARCH 27, 2008

DEPARTURES	ARRIVALS
Saipan-Rota CO 9313 8:30am 9:05am 3,4,7	Rota-Saipan CO 9598 11:10am 11:45am 1,2,6
Saipan-Guam CO9317 4:00am 4:50am Daily CO9597 8:30am 9:20am 1,2,5,6 CO9313 8:30am 10:00am 3,4,7 via Rota CO9601 12:30pm 1:20pm Daily CO9603 3:30pm 4:20pm Daily CO9605 6:30pm 7:20pm Daily CO9599 9:30pm 10:20pm Daily	Guam-Saipan CO 9316 2:30am 3:20am Daily CO9596 7:00am 7:50am Daily CO9598 10:15am 11:45am 1,2,6 via Rota CO9600 10:45am 11:35am 3,4,5,7 CO9602 2:00pm 2:50pm Daily CO9604 5:00pm 5:50pm Daily CO9606 8:00pm 8:50pm Daily
Saipan-Narita NW 078 8:25am 1:30pm Daily via Nagoya NW 075 4:50pm 7:30pm Daily	Narita-Saipan NW 076 10:35am 3:05pm Daily NW 077 6:15pm 1:10am+1 Daily via Nagoya
Saipan-Osaka NW 083 4:20pm 7:10pm Daily	Osaka-Saipan NW 084 10:30am 3:05pm Daily
Saipan-Nagoya NW 078 8:40am 11:25am Daily	Nagoya-Saipan NW 077 9:00pm 1:25am+1 Daily
Saipan-Manila CO 895 4:45pm 6:35pm 6 CO 895 6:45pm 8:35pm 3	Manila-Saipan CO 890 9:15am 2:55pm 6 CO 890 11:45am 5:35pm 3
Saipan-Seoul OZ 604 2:10am 6:00am 1 OZ 604 2:40am 6:30am 2,3,4,5,6,7 OZ 606 3:30pm 7:00pm 2,4,6,7	Seoul-Saipan OZ 605 9:00am 2:30pm 2,4,6,7 OZ 603 7:40pm 1:00am+1 7 OZ 603 8:10pm 1:30am+1 1,2,3,4,5,6
Saipan-Busan OZ 608 4:00am 7:35am 1,4,5,7	Busan-Saipan OZ 607 9:30pm 2:50am+1 3,4,6,7
Guam-Manila CO 891 6:00am 10:30am 3 via Yap and Koror CO 893 6:30am 8:05am 6 CO 893 8:25am 10:00am 2,7 CO 893 5:50pm 9:10pm 5 via Koror CO 933 7:00pm 8:40pm Daily PR 111 6:00am 7:45am 1,2,4,6,7	Manila-Guam CO 894 11:20am 4:55pm 2,7 CO 894 7:45pm 1:20am+1 6 CO 892 9:45pm 6:30am+1 3 via Koror and Yap CO 892 10:10pm 5:30am+1 5 via Koror CO 934 10:55pm 4:30am+1 Daily PR 110 10:15pm 4:00am+1 1,3,5,6,7
Guam-Hongkong CO 909 6:50pm 9:35pm 1,5	Hongkong-Guam CO 910 10:35pm 5:15am+1 1,5
Guam-Rota CO 9598 10:15am 10:45am 1,2,6	Rota-Guam CO 9313 9:30am 10:00am 3,4,7

Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CO: Continental; PR: Philippine Airlines; CZ: China Southern; CA: Air China; NW: Northwest; JO: Japan Airlines; OZ: Asiana; MU: China Eastern ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency	Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota				FRE 113	11:40am	11:50am	Daily
FRE 100 7:00am 7:30am Daily				FRE 115	1:00pm	1:10pm	Daily
Rota-Saipan				FRE 117	2:30pm	2:40pm	Daily
FRE 100 7:50am 8:20am Daily				FRE 119	4:00pm	4:10pm	Daily
Saipan-Rota				FRE 121	4:40pm	4:50pm	Daily
FRE 200 9:00am 9:30am Daily				FRE 123 *	5:40pm	5:50pm	Daily
Rota-Guam				FRE 125 *	6:00pm	6:10pm	Daily
FRE 200 9:50am 10:15am Daily				Tinian-Saipan w/ connecting flights to Rota or Guam**			
Guam-Rota				FRE 102	7:05am	7:15am	Daily
FRE 300 4:00pm 4:30pm Daily				FRE 104	7:50am	8:00am	Daily
Rota-Saipan				FRE 106**	8:20am	8:30am	Daily
FRE 300 4:50pm 5:25pm Daily				FRE 108**	9:00am	9:10am	Daily
Saipan-Rota				FRE 110	10:00am	10:10am	Daily
FRE 400 6:00pm 6:30pm Daily				FRE 112	11:05am	11:15am	Daily
Rota-Guam				FRE 114	12:00pm	12:10pm	Daily
FRE 400 6:45pm 7:15pm Daily				FRE 116	1:30pm	1:40pm	Daily
Saipan-Tinian				FRE 118	2:50pm	3:00pm	Daily
FRE 101 6:45am 6:55am Daily				FRE 120**	4:20pm	4:30pm	Daily
FRE 103 7:30am 7:40am Daily				FRE 122**	5:00pm	5:10pm	Daily
FRE 105 8:00am 8:10am Daily				FRE 124	6:05pm	6:15pm	Daily
FRE 107 8:40am 8:50am Daily				FRE 126	6:20pm	6:30pm	Daily
FRE 109* 9:10am 9:20am Daily							
FRE 111* 10:45am 10:55am Daily							



NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

Business

Aloha Airlines halting passenger service

HONOLULU (AP)—Aloha Airlines said Sunday it will halt all passenger service after Monday, signaling the end of an airline that has served Hawaii for more than 60 years.

Aloha, which filed for bankruptcy for Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection on March 21, was a casualty of fierce competition and rising fuel prices. The airline said it will stop taking reservations for flights after Monday.

"We simply ran out of time to find a qualified buyer or se-

cure continued financing for our passenger business," said Aloha President David Banmiller in a statement. "We had no choice but to take this action."

Aloha has suffered since Phoenix-based Mesa Air Group Inc. launched a new interisland carrier called go! airlines in 2006, triggering a local airfare war.

Banmiller didn't mentioned go! by name in his statement, but did blame the company's demise on rival companies.

"Unfortunately, unfair com-

petition has succeeded in driving us out of business," he said.

Rising fuel prices, which have forced other airlines to raise fares and look for ways to cut expenses, also made it difficult for Aloha to operate.

Aloha said tickets for flights after Monday will not be honored. It said it is working to have United Airlines accommodate passengers with tickets for Aloha's mainland to Hawaii flights. It hopes to seat those

with interisland tickets on Hawaiian Airlines.

Aloha has canceled Monday flights from Hawaii to the West Coast and between several cities in California and Nevada. It's last day for interisland travel will be Monday.

Aloha advised passengers who don't want to fly another airline and who want a refund to contact their travel agents or credit card companies. Those who paid by cash or check may file a claim in bankruptcy court.

The shutdown will affect about 1,900 employees. The company said air cargo services are to continue.

A Seattle company on Thursday offered to buy Aloha's cargo operations for an undisclosed amount. But Saltchuk Resources Inc. said it wasn't interested in taking over Aloha's passenger business.

Aloha Airlines was founded in 1946.



Passengers check in at the Aloha Airlines counter at the Honolulu International Airport, Sunday, March 30, 2008 in Honolulu.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Doctors wary after cholesterol drug flop

CHICAGO (AP)—Leading doctors urged a return to older, tried-and-true treatments for high cholesterol after hearing full results Sunday of a failed trial of Vytorin. Millions of Americans already take the drug or one of its components, Zetia. But doctors were stunned to learn that Vytorin failed to improve heart disease even though it worked as intended to reduce three key risk factors. "People need to turn back to statins," said Yale University cardiologist Dr. Harlan Krumholz, referring to Lipitor, Crestor and other widely used brands. The study was closely watched because Zetia and Vytorin have racked up \$5 billion in sales despite limited proof of benefit. Results were presented at an American College of Cardiology conference in Chicago Sunday and published on the Internet by the New England Journal of Medicine.

New Eli Lilly CEO walks into tough road

INDIANAPOLIS (AP)—John Lechleiter takes over as Lilly's CEO on April 1, succeeding Sidney Taurel, 59, who is retiring. The Harvard-trained chemist inherits a Fortune 500 company that earned nearly \$3 billion last year but will lose patent protection for its best-selling drug, the anti-psychotic Zyprexa, in three years. Meanwhile, the drugmaker is battling a slumping stock price and, like other pharmaceutical companies, faces growing government regulation and competition from generic products. Lilly also has had to pay more than \$1 billion to settle hundreds of pending claims alleging it downplayed Zyprexa's side effects and pushed the drug for unapproved uses, charges the company denies. Lechleiter becomes Lilly's ninth leader in 131 years. The new CEO will make an annual salary of \$1.4 million.

Uncertain economy awaits next president

WASHINGTON (AP)—Hillary Rodham Clinton, Barack Obama and John McCain have diagnosed the swooning U.S. economy and have come up with rival plans to revive it. If the downturn lasts as long as some economists predict, one of the three will get a chance to try to sell his or her proposal to Congress as president.

Or if the economy hits bottom before Inauguration Day and then turns up, the victor

may be handed a rare gift: the chance to begin a presidency presiding over the early stages of a rebound.

Take your pick. Who knows where the economy will be in nine and a half months?

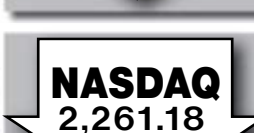
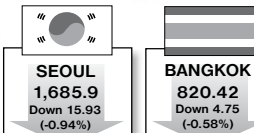
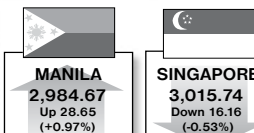
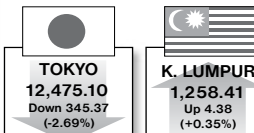
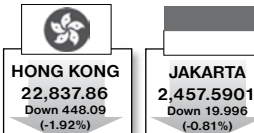
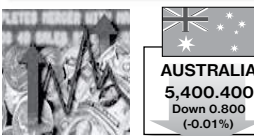
As economic clouds darkened last week, all three candidates delivered major speeches on the economy while the Bush administration prepared a plan to give the Federal Reserve new regulatory powers over the

financial system.

Democrats Clinton and Obama outlined competing \$30 billion stimulus packages to help homeowners facing foreclosure and other victims of the financial crisis. This would be on top of the \$168 billion stimulus package of rebates and temporary tax cuts passed by Congress last month and signed by President Bush. Both Clinton and Obama also called for broader financial regulation.

STOCK Portfolio

ASIAN MARKETS



MONEY MARKET

Australian Dollar	1.0892
British Pound	0.5019
Canadian Dollar	1.0219
Chinese Renmbi	7.0138
Euro	0.6332
Hong Kong Dollar	7.7846
Indian Rupee	39.85
Indonesian Rupiah	9218
Japanese Yen	99.685
Malaysian Ringgit	3.188
New Zealand Dollar	1.2598
Philippine Peso	41.706
Singapore Dollar	1.3797
South Korean Won	991.95
Swiss Franc	0.9965
Taiwan Dollar	30.416
Thailand Baht	31.535

In U.S. dollar terms

Source: Associated Press

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Asia

Olympic torch arrives in Beijing

BEIJING (AP)—The Olympic flame arrived in Beijing for a torch re-lighting ceremony Monday, signaling the start of a round-the-world relay that is expected to be a lightning rod for protests against China's policies and human rights practices.

The flame's arrival in Beijing was shown live on state television, and comes a week after the lighting ceremony for the Olympic torch in Greece was marred by protests. There also were protests Sunday by a pro-Tibetan group when Greek officials handed over the flame to organizers of the Beijing Games in Athens.

The torch relay has been heavily promoted by the Chinese government. The chartered Air China plane was greeted at the Beijing airport on Monday by hundreds of schoolchildren waving Chinese and Olympics flags.

Chief Beijing organizer Liu Qi carried the flame off the plane in a small lantern. He was greeted by Zhou Yongkang, a member of the Communist Party's supreme nine-man Politburo Standing Committee.

About 5,000 people, including 220 foreign journalists, were on hand for the ceremony in Tiananmen Square in the

heart of Beijing.

All the seats were a bright red and faced north where a huge portrait of Mao Zedong overlooks the square. Martial artists and dancers wearing costumes representing minority ethnic groups, including Tibetans, cavorted on a huge red carpet covering much of the north end of the square.

Authorities have noticeable boosted security in downtown Beijing in recent days. One subway station at Tiananmen Square was closed and dozens of police were at other subway stops. Police also closed the square to vehicles, and pedestrians and bicyclists were kept at one block away.

After a one-day stop in Beijing, the flame goes Tuesday to Almaty, Kazakhstan, the start of the 20-country, 85,100-mile global journey.

The grandiose relay is the longest in Olympic history and has the most torchbearers—a sign of the vast attention lavished on the Games by Beijing, which hopes to use it to showcase China's rising economic and political power.

Instead, however, it has provided a stage for human rights activists who have been criticizing

China over a range of issues including its control over Tibet, its relationship with Sudan and its handling of Muslims in the far west of the country.

Tibetan and rights groups have said they will stage protests along the torch route, which includes stops in London, Paris and San Francisco over the next 10 days.

The relay has especially focused attention on recent unrest in Tibet, the worst in the Chinese-controlled region since 1989.

Dozens of Tibetan exiles burned an effigy of China President Hu Jintao as they reached the Indian capital of New Delhi on Sunday, carrying a symbolic flame which they said was running parallel to the official torch for the Beijing Olympic games.

Beijing's relay was tarnished before it even began when a demonstrator protesting Chinese media curbs grabbed headlines last week by disrupting a Chinese official's opening address at the lighting ceremony in Greece.

That was followed across Greece by a smattering of protests by activists protesting a crackdown on dissent in Tibet and members of the Falun Gong spiritual movement, which is banned in China.



Saipan Tribune, the CNMI's first daily newspaper, is looking for fresh talent to join our team.

REPORTER

- At least two years' experience writing for a newspaper or magazine;
- Must know how to write hard news, features, and business stories;
- Must have competent grasp of grammar, punctuation, spelling, and syntax;
- College graduate (Journalism, Communication, Creative Writing, English majors a plus)
- Must be methodical, analytical, detail-oriented, and can work fast within strict deadlines;
- Must be a fast learner, self-starter, aggressive, and a team player;
- Must be willing to work on holidays, weekends;
- Computer literate and with driver's license.

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- Must be willing to put in flexible work hours;
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- Computer literate and with driver's license;
- Must be willing to work on holidays, weekends;
- Must be passionate about sports.

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- At least five years' experience in the publishing industry or related field;
- Must have at least two years' supervisory experience in the field;
- High proficiency in Adobe CS applications (InDesign, Illustrator, and Photoshop); knowledge of other applications for print and web a plus;
- Deep familiarity with Mac environment; knowledge in PC is a plus;
- College graduate (Fine Arts, Graphic Design or related course);
- Must have extensive knowledge in digital pre-press production and printing;
- Must be willing to work on holidays, weekends;
- Must be creative, resourceful, and can work fast.

GRAPHIC ARTIST

- At least three years' experience in the publishing business or related field;
- High proficiency in Adobe CS applications (InDesign, Illustrator, and Photoshop); knowledge of other applications for print and web a plus;
- Deep familiarity with Mac environment; knowledge in PC is a plus;
- College graduate (Fine Arts, Graphic Design or related course);
- Must have basic knowledge in digital pre-press production and printing;
- Must be willing to work on holidays, weekends;
- Must be creative, resourceful, and can work fast.

EDITORIAL ASSISTANT

- At least high school graduate;
- Typing speed of at least 40 words per minute
- Must have extensive experience using Microsoft Office applications (Word, Excel, PowerPoint);
- Must be familiar with Mac computers (knowledge in PC is a plus);
- Must be willing to work on holidays, weekends;
- Must be a fast learner, self-starter, and a team player.

If you think you have what it takes to be part of this dynamic team, submit your most recent résumé and portfolio to the *Saipan Tribune*, located on the second floor of the CIC Centre, Beach Road, Garapan. Or e-mail it to editor@saipantribune.com. On-island hires preferred.

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands



Department of Public Health
Women, Infants and Children Program
Navy Hill Bldg N-25



PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT

On August 8, 2007 the Department of Public Health officially opened the Women, Infants and Children Program, better known as "WIC."

The WIC Program is 100% federally funded, and provides nutritious foods, nutrition education, and health care referrals for pregnant and new mothers, infants and children below the age of five (5).

The WIC Program's goals are to reduce nutrition related health problems, promote breastfeeding, prevent anemia, and help lower medical costs for low-income families in the CNMI.

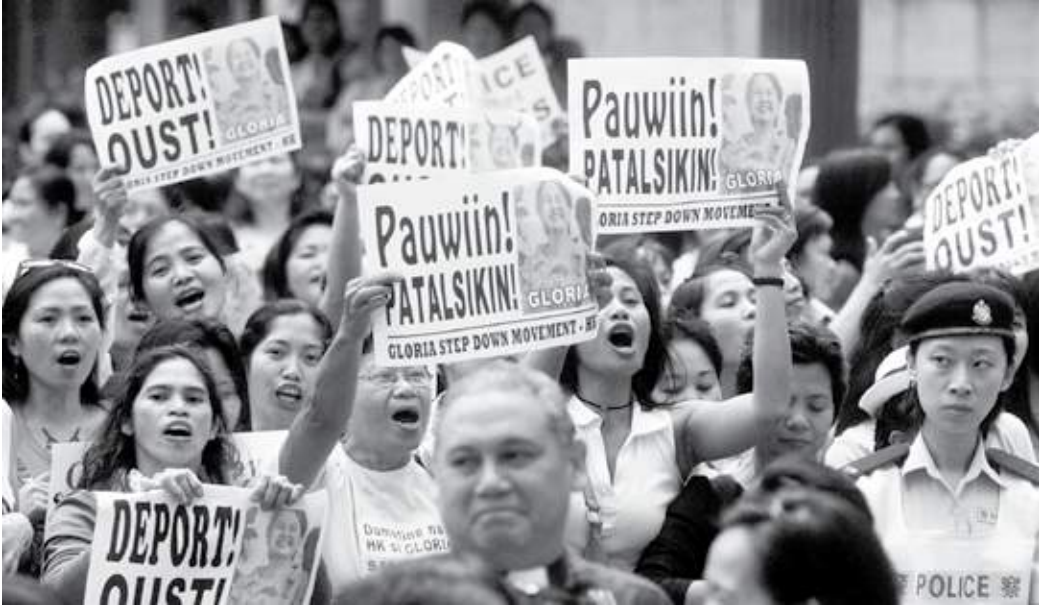
WIC foods include iron-fortified infant formula and infant cereal, iron-fortified adult cereal, vitamin C-rich fruit or vegetable juice, eggs, milk, cheese, peanut butter, dried beans/peas, tuna fish and carrots. Special therapeutic infant formulas and medical foods may be provided when prescribed by a physician for a specified medical condition.

The Program would like to thank the community for its patience during the initial phase of operation, and would like to assure the residents of Rota and Tinian that plans are underway to bring services to these respective islands. More information will be provided when the proposed opening dates are confirmed.

Eligible participants must meet income guidelines, CNMI residency requirements, and be determined to be "nutritionally at risk" by a health professional.

For more information or to schedule an appointment, please call 236-8750/58 or visit the WIC Clinic in the CHC Dialysis Center, north entrance.

A S I A



Hundreds of Filipinos living in Hong Kong hold up leaflets during a protest against the arrival of Philippine President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo on Sunday, March 30, 2008.

Hundreds protest as Arroyo arrives in HK

HONG KONG (AP)—Hundreds of Filipinos in Hong Kong demonstrated Sunday to demand the resignation of Philippine President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo as she arrived for an investment conference.

The protesters, mostly domestic workers, gathered outside the five-star Grand Hyatt hotel where Arroyo was expected to stay. They chanted slogans in Tagalog, a main Philippine language, saying, "Gloria Arroyo step down" and "Oust Arroyo."

"We want her to go back home and face all the charges against her like corruption, human rights violations and the neglect of her government to overseas Filipino

workers," said Eman Villanueva, secretary general of the United Filipinos in Hong Kong.

"We want her to step down for all these," Villanueva said.

Arroyo's visit to Hong Kong came after months of political turmoil in Manila over corruption allegations implicating her and her husband.

The Senate has been investigating allegations that Arroyo, her husband and a former elections chief benefited from huge kickbacks in an aborted US\$330 million deal with China's ZTE Corp. to set up a nationwide broadband network.

Arroyo's office has dismissed the charges as hearsay. She has

survived three opposition impeachment bids and at least four failed coup attempts.

Arroyo will deliver a keynote speech at the Asian Investment Conference on Monday and meet business executives to sell her country as a favorable Southeast Asian investment destination, despite its political troubles.

"We have labored to ... guarantee peace, order and stability in our country," Arroyo told a group of Filipino business executives at a reception Sunday in Hong Kong. "It's paying off ... The peso is strong."

In a statement released before her departure, Arroyo said economic reforms she initiated have bolstered her country's foreign reserves.

"It is imperative that we stay focused on continuing to strengthen our economy through aggressive outreach to investors," Arroyo said.

Tibetan protesters beaten in Nepal

KATMANDU, Nepal (AP)—A group of 200 Tibetan exiles and monks tried to storm the Chinese Embassy visa office in Nepal's capital on Sunday but police beat them back with bamboo batons.

At least 130 protesters were arrested and some of the demonstrators and policemen were injured in the scuffle.

The protesters reached the metal gate of the fortified compound and were kicking and trying to push it open when police armed with bamboo batons raced to the scene and began beating them.

"Stop the killing, stop the killing," the protesters chanted as they charged toward the office gate.

BEIJING (AP)—The speaker of Tibet's parliament-in-exile

called Sunday for China to end its "brutal" crackdown against Tibetans and to allow independent observers into isolated Himalayan region.

China's Premier Wen Jiabao, however, said during a visit to Laos that the Tibetan capital, Lhasa, was "basically stable" and "social order has returned to normal."

The Tibetan official, Karma Chopel, said at a news conference in Rome that the unrest was a response by Tibetans to China's hard-line rule over the region, and not fomented by the Dalai Lama or other exiles.

"Those who know the true fact of the matter know that clearly this is a genuine outcry and outburst of Chinese misrule over the Tibetan people," Chopel said. "Our demand is that (an) independent, neutral, unbiased, international group

should go into Tibet and try to find out the real situation."

He added that China "is waiting to label Tibetans as terrorists (to) try to legitimize their crackdown internationally."

Tibetans have protested in front of the Chinese Embassy visa office in the heart of Katmandu in the past, but it was the first time they had reached the gate and tried to push through.

Sunday's protest is the latest by Tibetan monks and refugees in Katmandu against Chinese authorities' crackdown on recent demonstrations in Tibet.

Police officials, who spoke on condition of anonymity, citing policy, said those arrested are being held in several detention centers and will likely be freed later in the day. They will not face any charges.

NKorea threatens South with destruction

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—North Korea threatened South Korea with destruction Sunday after Seoul's top military officer said his country would consider attacking the communist nation if it tried to carry out a nuclear attack.

The statement from North

Korea's official news agency marked the third straight day of bellicose rhetoric from the North, which is angry over the harsher line the South's conservative new president has taken against the country since assuming office last month.

"Our military will not sit idle until warmongers launch a pre-emptive strike," said an unidentified KCNA military commentator. "Everything will be in ashes, not just a sea of fire, if our advanced pre-emptive strike once begins."

World

Al-Sadr pulls fighters off streets

BAGHDAD (AP)—In a possible turning point in the recent upsurge in violence, Muqtada al-Sadr ordered his Shiite militiamen off the streets Sunday but called on the government to stop its raids against his followers.

The government welcomed the move, which followed intense negotiations by Shiite officials, including two lawmakers who reportedly traveled to Iran to ask religious authorities there to intervene.

Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki, whose offensive that began Tuesday in the oil-rich southern city in Basra sparked the crisis, called al-Sadr's statement "a step in the right direction."

But fighting continued in the Basra area after the announcement. Seven people also were killed when a mortar struck a residential district in Baghdad's Karradah district, and witnesses reported clashes in the Shula area in a northern section of the capital.

A U.S. airstrike killed 25 suspected militants after American ground forces came under heavy fire during a combat patrol in predominantly Shiite eastern Baghdad, where the fiercest clashes in the capital have occurred.

The nine-point statement by the anti-American cleric, which was broadcast through Shiite mosques in Baghdad and across the south, called for an end to the "armed presence" in Basra and other cities and urged followers "to cooperate with the government to achieve security."

Swedish gov't closes doors to fleeing Iraqis

SOLLENTUNA, Sweden (AP)—The fear of being sent back to Baghdad has taken its toll on Mustafa Aziz Alwi.

He says he cannot sleep and has lost about 20 pounds since his claim for asylum in Sweden was rejected in January.

"They told me it's because it's calmer in Iraq now, that I can go back and be happy. But they don't know that it's death there," said Aziz Alwi, 25, wiping away tears in an interview at his cousin's apartment in the Stockholm suburb of Sollentuna.

Had his case been decided a year earlier, he would probably already hold a residence permit. Sweden has given shelter to about 100,000 Iraqis, 40,000 of them since the U.S.-led invasion in 2003. That's far more than any other Western country including the U.S., which admitted just over 1,600 Iraqi refugees in the 2007 fiscal year, nearly 400 short of the annual goal of 2,000, and a big reduction from an initial target of 7,000.



Mahdi Army fighters drive away with captured Iraqi armored police vehicles outside a state run al-Iraqiya TV facility in Basra, Iraq, Sunday, March 30, 2008.

Zimbabwe opposition claims lead in election

HARARE, Zimbabwe (AP)—Zimbabwe's main opposition party claimed an early lead Sunday in elections, seeking to thwart any possible vote rigging by President Robert Mugabe amid silence from the Electoral Commission and the deployment of security forces.

Earlier people celebrated in the streets, dancing, singing and giving each other the openhanded wave that is the opposition party's symbol.

But by sundown, as frustrations grew more than 24 hours after polls closed, riot police and other security forces were patrolling the capital's densely populated suburbs, according to independent election monitors.

In previous elections, partial

results have been announced within hours of voting ending.

"Why are we not getting the results? It's very clear to me Mugabe wants to steal this election," said Hapison Mate, a 23-year-old first-time voter.

The head of the Pan-African Parliament observer mission warned the delay was creating "anxiety" and warned of a scenario similar to Kenya, where a delayed announcement of results from a disputed December election led to an explosion of violence. More than 1,000 people were killed.

"These are the delays that start causing problems," Marwick Khumalo, head of the Pan-African Parliament observers, told South African Broadcasting Corp. TV.

Muslims more numerous than Catholics

VATICAN CITY (AP)—Islam has surpassed Roman Catholicism as the world's largest religion, the Vatican newspaper said Sunday.

"For the first time in history, we are no longer at the top: Muslims have overtaken us," Monsignor Vittorio Formenti said in an interview with the Vatican newspaper L'Osservatore Romano. Formenti compiles the Vatican's yearbook.

He said that Catholics accounted for 17.4 percent of the world population—a stable percentage—while Muslims were at 19.2 percent.

"It is true that while Muslim families, as is well known, con-

tinue to make a lot of children, Christian ones on the contrary tend to have fewer and fewer," the monsignor said.

Formenti said that the data refer to 2006. The figures on Muslims were put together by Muslim countries and then provided to the United Nations, he said, adding that the Vatican could only vouch for its own data.

When considering all Christians and not just Catholics, Christians make up 33 percent of the world population, Formenti said.

Spokesmen for the Vatican and the United Nations did not immediately return phone calls seeking comment Sunday.

Overdrive

Why is that Murano scowling?



Nissan has made modest changes to the 2009 Murano, keeping it a sassy, hip short-coupled wagon on big wheels.

LOS ANGELES TIMES

By **DAN NEIL**
(C) 2008, LOS ANGELES TIMES

I would like to give my Nissan Murano test vehicle an Advil, or Tylenol, or perhaps I should Simoniz its hood with that HeadOn stuff that you apply directly to the forehead. This thing looks like it's suffering from the world's worst migraine.

To signal, I suppose, the model-year face-lift, Nissan designers gave the 2009 Murano a tensed chrome brow, a fierce furrowing that is, actually, quite a bit more aggressive than anything else in the Nissan garage. Compared with the new Murano, the lava-breathing GT-R has the countenance of the Bud-

ket that anything you do to it subsequently looks phony and trumped up? In other words, how do you market the new design when the old design is better?

The Murano inarguably got it right the first time. Introduced in 2003 as a 2004 model, the Murano was as smoothly contoured as the glass from which it took the name. Its fluid lines wasted no effort encapsulating the shape, a kind of high-sided, short-coupled wagon on big wheels: the crossover. The Murano was a huge hit for Nissan and—along with the crazed FX35/45 performance utilities—gave Nissan the hip, sassy-as-spit brand image it enjoys today. The Murano also kicked open the door

platform, with routine model-freshening improvements in rigidity and quietness. It's still powered by Nissan's ever-present 3.5-liter V6, with a bump in output to 265 hp and 248 pound-feet of torque. And it's still routing power through a continuously variable transmission, although this generation of the device is much smarter and far more livable than the last. Compared with the earnestly plodding evolution in the rest of the Murano, the CVT retune is a thunderclap of innovation.

Here's a quick chalk talk on CVTs: A conventional geared transmission, whether manual or automatic, has only so many ratios to match engine speed (where output and fuel efficiency are

maximized) and vehicle speed. Conventional transmissions, then, leave a lot of fuel efficiency on the table. A CVT, which uses a drive chain between two variable-diameter pulleys, essentially has an infinite range of gear ratios and so allows the engine to run at optimum speed for any given load.

The trouble with CVTs is their reaction time: You give the car the gas and there's this long moaning engine note as the CVT com-

puter system slowly orients the pulleys to optimum ratios. A lot of cars with CVTs sound as if they are having a full-body massage, even though the CVT is operating as designed.

Nissan's new CVT software works a lot better. The step-off acceleration is respectable, and the passing-speed response is all but indistinguishable from an automatic's kick-down passing behavior. Once throttle demand slackens, the CVT quickly falls into a mellow overdrive mode.

The payoff for all this hot, gear-on-gear action is fuel economy: The Murano gets 18 miles per gallon city, 23 mpg highway. That's the same as the former, less-powerful Murano, and it's the same rating in both the front-wheel and all-wheel drive versions. Usually, AWD versions pay a fuel economy penalty. Under the circumstances—which is to say, when gas costs more than reasonably priced Chablis—18/23 mpg isn't a marquee statistic. Still, it's better than a lot of Murano competitors with the same room and less power.

A couple housekeeping notes: The Murano comes in three trim levels (S, SL and LE) and two editions, front-wheel drive and AWD. The base FWD

version retails for \$26,330, and the utterly blissed-out LE AWD (with the 30 GB hard-drive-based navigation/audio head, rear-seat DVD, 20-inch rims and lots more) goes for about \$39,000.

Nissan has gone to some trouble to refine and update the interior, drawing heavily from the Infiniti larder. The center-stack controls are direct lifts from the company's premium brand. There are grace notes here and there. The steering wheel is tilt and telescopic. The LCD display is handsome and intuitive. There's even a push-button start system, with which I managed to somehow kill the battery even though I had the key. Awesome.

If you've driven a Murano, you've driven this one. It's fairly well planted and agile, considering the bar-stool height. The brakes and steering do their thing without incident or complaint. But I must say—as the spoiled owner of a late-model Honda Odyssey—the body control could be better. The Murano floats and sways down the highway, and when it encounters broken pavement it takes two or three oscillations for the suspension to re-compose itself.

Here's what I like: I like the reclining rear seats, which make a fairly cramped compartment downright luxe. I like the rear seat lever releases along the rear bulkheads, which allow you to drop the seats easily while loading. I also like the power rear-seat return that raises the seats again, either from buttons in the rear or in the cockpit. These are all features that, while not unique in the market, more than earn their suburban keep.

Still, for me, the Murano is betwixt and between. If I've got to have a luxe crossover—and I owned Nissan stock—I'd go for the smaller but infinitely more charismatic Infiniti EX35. If I needed a kid-mobile, the Murano just doesn't have the ease of access or storage. If I needed a sporty crossover, I'd be sorely tempted to wait for the new FX35/45 twins, coming this summer.

Have Nissan product planners bracketed the Murano out of its reason for being? No wonder it has a headache.



Nissan has refined the 2009 Murano's interior with rear reclining seats, a telescopic steering wheel and a push-button start.

dha. I suppose my question is, does it convey aggression, really, or something akin to consternation, or constipation? This is the look I get when I listen to Kenny Chesney sing or when I eat heavy German food.

It was a problem that Alfred P. Sloan—GM's empire builder and the man who practically invented stylistic obsolescence—never contemplated: What if you design a car just right, so well-tempered to its mission and mar-

for a crowd of slippery crossovers such as the Mazda CX-7, Buick Enclave and Hyundai Sante Fe. No good deed ever goes unpunished.

After a model-year hiatus (no 2008 model), the Murano comes back with a little more mustard on the ball, styling wise, but generally modest changes. The profile is about the same. The interior passenger room is about the same—although rear cargo space is trimmed back a bit. The Murano is still based on the Nissan's midsize Altima

CRUISIN'

Wheel-hop blues

By **GREG ZYLA**
(C) 2008 KING FEATURES SYND., INC.

Q: Greg, I have a 2000 Firebird Trans-Am. In the winter, I experience wheel hop under hard acceleration; in the summer, I don't. Why is this?—L.K., New York

A: L.K., your Trans-Am is equipped with high-performance tires (probably Z-rated), and these tires perform differently in cold weather than they do in the summertime. Cold weather and roadways reduce the amount of traction these same tires offer in summer. The proof is in the fact that the wheel hop only occurs in cold, winter weather.

If wheel hop plagues you in the summer, the cause could be shocks or other suspension pieces. Also, remember that your traction and overall handling and cornering characteristics are negatively influenced when the weather is freezing and the roads are cold. As for snow on the road, park your rear-drive "F Body" Trans-Am, as these cars are horrible in the snow

with the summer tires. If you must drive in snow, get snow tires.

■ ■ ■

READER RESPONDS: Greg, thanks for telling my story to your readers about the connection my family had to the Lozier, Kaiser-Frazer and Graham automobiles. One note of interest is that there was a corporate split in 1915-16 with the Lozier car. Lozier continued to build cars in Detroit for a couple more years, while H.A. Lozier came to Cleveland to build the H.A.L. as a more economical product. How one did that with a Widely-12 Motor, I don't know, but the car did perform well.

Also, an item that my father used his screwdriver on was the Cleveland motorcycle, which was a good thing in its day until it was re-engineered.—Robert Shamleffer, Willoughby, Ohio

Write to Greg Zyla in care of King Features Weekly Service, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475, or send an e-mail to gzyla@ptd.net.

Life & Style

French architect Nouvel wins Pritzker

By ANNE-MARIE O'CONNOR
(C) 2008, LOS ANGELES TIMES

Jean Nouvel, the versatile French architect who strives to balance his buildings' settings with a restless architectural language he seems to reinvent with each project, is the winner of the 2008 Pritzker Architecture Prize, the highest honor of his profession.

Nouvel, 62, is known for a body of work that lives up to his name, a variant of the French word for "new."

His 1987 Institut du Monde Arabe in Paris uses a rich arabesque surface to reveal a Moorish compound behind its stark modernist facade.

The roof of his 2000 Lucerne Cultural and Conference Center extends far beyond the building, to the lake of the Swiss city, reflecting the movement of light on the water.

The windows of his darkly

rectangular Guthrie Theater, which opened in 2006 on the Mississippi River in Minneapolis, strategically frame the vintage industrial signs and soft silo curves of the architecture around it—incorporating elements of classic Americana.

Nouvel says each commission is a unique "adventure" for him.

"For Nouvel, there is no architectural 'style' a priori," Pritzker jury Chairman Peter Palumbo said in a statement, quoting from the Pritzker cita-

tion. "Rather, a context, interpreted in the broadest sense to include culture, location, program and client, provokes him to develop a different strategy for each project."

Nouvel, reached by phone and e-mail in Paris, said he was "honored and surprised."

He said he hoped the prize would give momentum to his future proposals, which include a slender \$400-million, 45-story Los Angeles residential monolith that some have compared to the Le Corbusier-led design of



French Architect Jean Nouvel is seen at his office in Paris, Friday, March 28, 2008. Nouvel is the 2008 winner of the Pritzker architecture award.



A photo of Sir Tyrone Guthrie, lower left, graces the front of the Guthrie Theater, in this April 20, 2007 file photo in Minneapolis. French architect Jean Nouvel won the 2008 Pritzker Architecture Prize, it was announced Sunday March 30, 2008. Among the 200 projects singled out by the Pritzker jury was the Guthrie Theater.

the United Nations headquarters in New York.

"This is important," Nouvel said. "This can strengthen confidence in your proposals. It is the kind of prize that can help you to propose the best building."

Nouvel said he was surprised because he believed he was a stronger contender in previous years. "I did not think this was my year," he said. "I take this prize as a strong incentive to continue increasingly demanding and ambitious work."

The prize, established in 1979 by the Pritzker family of the Hyatt hotel chain, carries a \$100,000 grant from the Chicago-based Hyatt Foundation. Nouvel will receive the bronze medallion June 2 at the Library of Congress in Washington, D.C.

Thomas J. Pritzker, chairman of the Hyatt Foundation, noted that the jury's citation acknowledged the "persistence, imagination, exuberance and above all the insatiable urge for creative experimentation" of Nouvel's work.

The citation says Nouvel "has

pushed architecture's discourse and praxis to new limits. His inquisitive and agile mind propels him to take risks in each of his projects, which, regardless of their success, have greatly expanded the vocabulary of contemporary architecture."

"For me, every building is an adventure," Nouvel said. "Every project is an adventure. I research every project. I talk to a lot of people. Every building has a relationship to the climate, to the wind, to the colors of the buildings around it. I arrive at a concept with all the parameters in place. When I have all of these constraints, I begin. Without constraints, architecture does not exist. You are a sculptor."

Nouvel said he was determined to resist what he views as the homogenization of world urbanism.

"When you go around the world, you see all the same buildings, and you feel like you're in the same place," he said. "I fight all the time for the specificity of architecture. I fight against global architecture."

While some architects aim for a standout, Nouvel said the designs of his buildings are inseparable from their settings.

"I feel like every site has a right to have an architectural aesthetic," he said. "Architects today try to create a little world. ... It's important to try to create a building in its context."

Every building, he said, must be the "missing piece of the puzzle."

Houston-based architect Carlos Jimenez, one of the Pritzker jurors this year, said Nouvel's willingness to take risks on new ideas with each project had an effect on the jury.

"He has a tremendous intellectual curiosity," Jimenez said. "Each work is quite different than the other because of this fascination."

"It's not like he's bringing a particular brand and deposits that brand wherever he's working. He's more insightful and piercing. Nouvel looks at context, not in a literal way but as an opportunity for new ideas and new connections."



This photo released by Courtesy of Ateliers Jean Nouvel, shows an exterior view of the Lyon Opera House in Lyon, France, designed by French architect Jean Nouvel.

Princess Diana inquest nears an end

LONDON (AP)—Flashing lights, swarming paparazzi, a mysterious second car at the crash site, and a multi-tentacled conspiracy allegedly directed by the husband of Queen Elizabeth II—jurors have much to sort through in reaching a judgment on the deaths of Princess Diana and her lover Dodi Fayed.

Nearly 11 years after the tragedy that shook the world, testimony has ranged far and wide in an extraordinary coroner's inquest, without shedding much light on claims that they were victims of a plot. The coroner, Lord Justice Scott Baker, is expected to begin his summation Monday, which may take days before going to the jury.

The key question for the jurors is whether the car crash in a Paris road tunnel on Aug. 31, 1997 was an accident.

Mohamed Al Fayed has not budged from claiming that his son and the princess died at the hands of British security agents, acting at Prince Philip's behest.

French police concluded it was an accident, caused in part by speeding and by the high alcohol level in driver Henri Paul's blood. A British police investigation concurred.

More than 240 witnesses have testified since the inquest began on Oct. 2, including Di-

ana's close friends and former butler, Philip's private secretary and a former head of the Secret Intelligence Service, MI6. Al Fayed's late bid to force the coroner to summon Philip to testify, and for written questions to be put to the queen, was summarily rejected by a higher court.

There has been evidence that Diana feared dying in a car crash, but that she also had speculated about death in a helicopter or airplane crash; there was testimony that she feared Philip.



Princess Diana

The basic scene is familiar: the couple's car slammed into a concrete pillar in the Alma tunnel, after apparently having a glancing collision with a white Fiat Uno, as they were pursued from the Ritz Hotel by photographers. Some witnesses said they saw flashes of light in the instant before the crash; other witnesses didn't notice any. Al Fayed's claim is that flashing lights disoriented the driver and sent the couple's car into a fatal skid.

But there was precious little evidence to back up his claims that his son and Diana were engaged, that she was pregnant and that Philip was at the head of a murder plot.

Al Fayed believes the Establishment simply didn't want Di-

ana to marry his son, a Muslim.

Al Fayed worked his way up from a humble birth in Alexandria, Egypt, in 1929 to become one of the richest men in Britain. He owns Harrods department store, a Scottish castle, the Fulham FC soccer team and the Ritz Hotel.

As the inquest unfolded, some distance opened between Al Fayed and his lawyers.

Michael Mansfield, his main advocate, steered away from accusing Philip or claiming MI6 assassinated the couple. He did suggest that rogue agents might have been involved.

"Mr. Al Fayed ... has certain beliefs which he has made clear. He is plainly not a member of MI6 or, certainly, the Establishment either," Mansfield told the coroner.

"I have never at any stage withdrawn any of his beliefs but you will see I have focused very carefully on elements of what he is suggesting that may be true; in other words, for which there is, forensically, evidence to support his beliefs."

Mansfield has suggested that Diana's campaign against land mines was the motive for the conspiracy—that she was assembling a dossier "capable of exposing historically British involvement in Angola because of who manufactured the weaponry, how it was got in there."

Message of Appreciation

We, the family of the late

†Isabel Cepeda Deleon Guerrero

would like to extend our sincerest appreciation and gratitude to all our relatives and friends who offered their condolences, prayers and supported us during our sorrow upon the loss of our dearest and loving wife, mother, grandmother, and as a result gave us the strength and courage to endure our loss.

To all who have helped us in one way or another, please rest assured that you will forever be remembered in our thoughts and prayers.

Special thanks to:

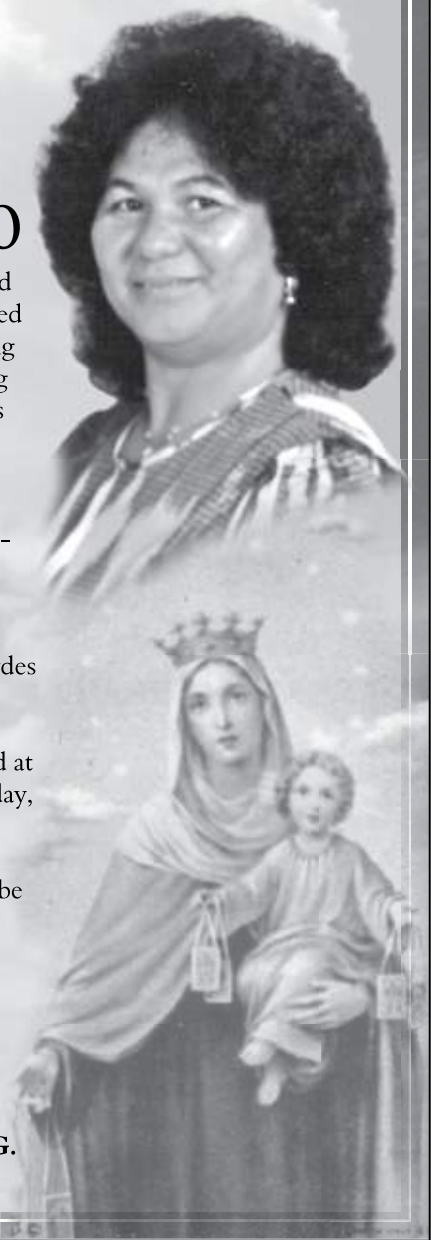
Father Manning, Altar Servers, Choirs, Mrs. Lourdes Kisa and specially the Techa, Mr. Gregg Sablan.

The mass for the second nine days is being offered at San Vicente Church at 6:00 pm beginning Thursday, March 27 thru Friday, April 4, 2008. Holy Rosary will be said at 5:00 pm on Friday, April 4, 2008 followed by the Mass at 6:00 pm and Dinner will be served immediately after the mass at San Vicente Social Hall.

May God bless us all.

Thank you and Dankulu Na Si Yuss Ma'ase.

Jose M. Deleon Guerrero, Velma Jeanne DLG. DL Cruz, Grand Children and Family.



FIRST DEATH ANNIVERSARY

Of our Dearly Beloved Mother



†ANDREA ROBERTO CAMACHO

We the children respectfully invite all our relatives and friends to join us in prayers as we commemorate the first death anniversary. Masses to be offered in her memory will be celebrated at Santa Soledad Church in Kagman at 6:00 p.m. daily except on Sunday, March 30, 2008, Mass will be offered at 7:30 a.m.

On the last day, Monday, March 31, 2008 Mass will be at 6:00 p.m. at Santa Soledad Church. Dinner will be served immediately after the Mass at the residence of Mr. & Mrs. Anthony C. Tenorio at I Denni.

Your presence and prayers are greatly appreciated.
Thank you and Si Yu'us Ma'ase.

GINEN I FAMAGUON

IN OUR HEARTS

We thought of you with love today, But there is nothing new, We thought about yesterday, and days before that too. We think of you in silence. We often speak your name. Now all we have is memories and your picture in frame. Your memory is our keepsake. With which we'll never part. God has you in His keeping, We have you in our hearts.

Message of Appreciation

We the family of our beloved,



Ernie Teigita Dela Cruz

would like to give our sincerest gratitude to all our relatives and friends, from near and far, that have given their time, presence, and in-kind acts of support. Great thanks to those that remembered us in their thoughts and prayers, who attended the masses and nightly rosaries, and also to those that joined us in commemorating his first year death anniversary. Your presence, once again, has given us the strength and light to continue our journey here on earth. You all will never be forgotten. We too, will forever pray for all. Once again, our heartfelt thanks to all.

Velma Jeanne DLG. Dela Cruz, Children and Family

Ryan Phillippe soldiers on

By RACHEL ABRAMOWITZ
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"You felt like a monster," says Ryan Phillippe, describing how he felt barging into Muslim homes on Ramadan, one of the holiest holidays. "We were there in full gear, with these assault rifles, on what's akin to their Christmas. We were barging into people's actual homes to shoot those scenes. I felt incredibly uncomfortable and ashamed at the time."

They weren't really looking for insurgents in Morocco, which was doubling for Iraq, just acting. For his role in "Stop-Loss," directed by Kimberly Peirce ("Boys Don't Cry"),

Phillippe spent a lot of time talking to soldiers, studying soldiers, and acting like a soldier. The 33-year-old actor plays a young Texan who's served two tours in Iraq and, just as he thinks he's getting out, gets stop-loss—ordered back for a third tour, against his will. Of the recent spate of Iraq war films, it's the first one that directly addresses the young soldiers on the ground and the fear and conflict they face fighting a war in which they've lost faith.

The loss-of-faith part wasn't hard for Phillippe. "I can't wait for (this war) to be over, and our troops to be home," he says. "We're occupying a territory we don't belong in. We're there

under (grounds) that were not truthful or warranted." That's different than how he feels about WWII, where his grandfather served and where he'd have happily gone if called.

In a way he was called. Phillippe, a onetime blue-collar kid from Delaware, still looks as young as a college student, and he's recently played plenty of young men caught up in the machinations of the military-industrial complex. Clint Eastwood's "Flags of Our Fathers" opens with a young Phillippe hurtling around in the darkness of Iwo Jima like a cornered rat—fear flickering across his moon-shaped face. In "Crash," he's a rookie cop watching his



LOS ANGELES TIMES

"I'm out of the woods and ready to focus and ready to create and excited about that," says Ryan Phillippe who stars in "Stop-Loss".

racist partner with quiet dismay, before tumbling almost by accident into his own dark side. In "Breach," Phillippe plays a young CIA analyst sent undercover to take down double agent Robert Hanssen.

Twenty years ago, any of these parts would have been played by Tom Cruise, who specialized in brash American youth, as cocky as a superpower nation during the heyday of Ronald Reagan. Given America's shaky sense of itself, Phillippe has a different ratio of arrogance to vulnerability. In these performances, he's a manly-enough guy who dutifully wants to do the right thing, though the pathway is hard to find. His tumult is internal. He thinks and observes—his brain whirs away as his innocence is slowly shredded.

Phillippe didn't plan this sojourn into playing young men struggling with authority and themselves—but that's the way the parts fell, particularly after a career-making role in "Crash," the polarizing Oscar winner for best picture. And going forward, he says, with a laugh, "I'm done with suits, and uniforms, and the government."

Despite having appeared in 30-odd films, Phillippe the leading man is in some strange way a newbie in the public eye. He's suffered from what one might call the Nicole Kidman syndrome, where a talented person's entire identity becomes dwarfed by the fame of their spouse, until the moment the marriage fails, and suddenly the haze lifts. Until Phillippe's marriage to Reese Witherspoon ended in 2006, almost every article written about him focused primarily on his relationship with his celebrated wife. The couple and their two children were catnip for the paparazzi. Now Phillippe's out on

his own for the first time in a decade, and there's a dollop of hard-won wariness in what appears to be genuine sweetness.

He didn't work for a year and a half after the split. "It was hard to make that (his career) seem important enough to spend my time on. ... Now, I'm out of the woods and ready to focus and ready to create and excited about that. I feel a lot more OK than I did. This time last year, I was a wreck."

Phillippe had wanted to be an actor ever since he was a 13-year-old and saw Paul Newman in "Cool Hand Luke." "Paul Newman is this amazing-looking man, this manly man, and he gets this telegram in jail that his mother has died. ... He goes and picks up this little banjo, sits on his bunk, and plays 'Plastic Jesus.' I remember how hard that hit me. How does this guy find this emotion? It's not real, but he's making it real."

The son of a chemical technician and a home day-care provider, Phillippe attended a Christian school with no drama department. He didn't get much of a chance to act, though he played soccer and learned tae kwon do. He did spend plenty of time with little kids—about 11 of them who came to his mom's day-care. "I loved working with them. I taught so many kids how to swim, helped them with potty training. I'd make videos and do little movies with them. I always loved it. By the time I had my first kid, I was only 23 ... but it was so second nature to me."

Before that happened, however, he was discovered by an agent while having his hair cut, landed a role as a gay teenager on the soap "One Life to Live," and began his Hollywood career in earnest, mostly as a teen

star in such films as "I Know What You Did Last Summer" and "Cruel Intentions," a teenage version of "Dangerous Liaisons," starring both Witherspoon and Gen-Y scream queen Sarah Michelle Gellar.

He and Witherspoon did have their two children young—at least by Hollywood standards. And it's clear that responsibility often sets Phillippe apart from some of his contemporaries.

"I finished the press junket (for 'Stop-Loss') on Saturday," says Phillippe. "I had the kids (that night). I was exhausted. I had literally done 70 interviews that day. My jaw muscles hurt. I thought, 'My poor kids. I'm going to go home and want to be a mute.'"

"Yet, you walk in the door and see their faces and find the energy. I made dinner. All the guys I saw on the press junket, they said, 'We're going to go out and drink and this and that,' and cut to me, and I'm cuddling my two kids, watching 'Nancy Drew.' The entire 'Nancy Drew,' and there is something really beautiful to me about that."

Having the kids, Ava, 8, and Deacon, 4, has provided real comfort during the times when the tabloids have targeted Phillippe, particularly during the breakup from Witherspoon. "(My children) only care about who you are in reference to them, and there being love and protection from you."

"I will get down occasionally about the things they write or say about you, or being hounded by the photographers. There is so much ugliness and negativity fed by the Internet. (My children) do become a kind of solace," Phillippe says.

"It makes all those other things mean so little and melt away."

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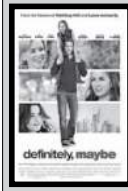
Superhero Movie

Friday	4:15	7:00	9:45
Saturday	1:10	4:15	7:00
Sunday	1:10	4:15	7:00
Mon thru Thurs	4:15	7:00	

Drake Bell, Sara Paxton
Comedy, Satire • Rated PG13

Synopsis

After being bitten by a genetically altered dragonfly, high school loser Rick Riker develops superhuman abilities like incredible strength and armored skin. Rick decides to use his new powers for good and becomes a costumed crime fighter known as "The Dragonfly." However, standing in the way of his destiny is the villainous Lou Landers. After an experiment gone wrong, Lou develops the power to steal a person's life force and in a dastardly quest for immortality becomes the supervillain, "The Hourglass."



Definitely Maybe

Friday	4:05	7:25	9:40
Saturday	1:05	4:05	7:25
Sunday	1:05	4:05	7:25
Mon thru Thurs	4:05	7:25	

Ryan Reynolds, Abigail Breslin
Romantic Comedy • Rated PG13

Synopsis

A thirtysomething Manhattan dad is in the midst of a divorce when his 10-year-old daughter, Maya, starts to question him about his life before marriage. Maya wants to know absolutely everything about how her parents met and fell in love: Will's story begins in 1992, as a young, starry-eyed aspiring politician who moves to New York from Wisconsin in order to work on the presidential campaign.



Dr. Seuss' Horton Hears A Who

Friday	4:20	7:05	9:35
Saturday	1:15	4:20	7:05
Sunday	1:15	4:20	7:05
Mon thru Thurs	4:20	7:05	

Jim Carrey (v), Steve Carell (v)
Family, Animated • Rated G

Synopsis

An imaginative elephant named Horton hears a faint cry for help coming from a tiny speck of dust floating through the air. Although Horton doesn't know it yet, that speck houses an entire city named Who-ville, inhabited by the microscopic Whos, led by the Mayor. Despite being ridiculed and threatened by his neighbors, who think he has lost his mind, Horton is determined to save the party—because "a person's a person, no matter how small."



10,000 BC

Friday	4:30	7:10	9:50
Saturday	1:30	4:30	7:10
Sunday	1:30	4:30	7:10
Mon thru Thurs	4:30	7:10	

Omar Sharif, Steven Strait
Drama, Adventure • Rated PG13



Never Back Down

Friday	4:25	7:35	9:55
Saturday	1:25	4:25	7:30
Sunday	1:25	4:25	7:30
Mon thru Thurs	4:25	7:30	

Sean Faris, Djimon Hounsou
Action, Drama • Rated PG13



The Spiderwick Chronicles

Friday	4:00	7:20	9:30
Saturday	1:00	4:00	7:20
Sunday	1:00	4:00	7:20
Mon thru Thurs	4:00	7:20	

Seth Rogen, Mary-Louise Parker
Fantasy, Children • Rated PG13



Rambo

Friday	4:10	7:15	10:00
Saturday	1:20	4:10	7:15
Sunday	1:20	4:10	7:15
Mon thru Thurs	4:10	7:15	

Sylvester Stallone, Julie Benz
Action, Adventure • Rated R

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TV, film actors' unions sever ties

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Unions representing film and television actors will negotiate separately with producers in upcoming contract talks after board members of the TV actors union voted Saturday to sever a long-standing agreement between the two guilds.

The vote by the board of the American Federation of Television and Radio Artists came hours before a meeting with the Screen Actors Guild and just three months before the expiration of the contract covering movies and prime-time shows.

Despite a sometimes rocky 27-year relationship the unions had shown recent signs of peace as they prepared for the upcoming talks.

The two groups had hoped at Saturday's meeting to set a start date for negotiations. Instead of discussing strategies the sides swapped accusations.

"For the past year SAG leadership in Hollywood has engaged in a relentless campaign of disinformation and disparagement," AFTRA president Roberta Reardon said in a written statement.

SAG President Alan Rosenberg's written response: "AFTRA's refusal now to bargain together with us and their last-second abandonment of the joint process is calculated, cynical and may serve the interests of their institution, but not its members."

The AFTRA board said the vote to terminate the agreement, known as "Phase One," was "overwhelming."

Wary of repeating the damage wrought by the recently ended 100-day Hollywood writers strike, producers and several A-list actors including Tom Hanks, George Clooney, Meryl Streep and Robert De Niro had been pressing for negotiations to start as early as this week.



Writer, comedian and actress Tina Fey walks the picket line with members of the Writers Guild of America as they picket in front of Viacom headquarters in New York, in this Jan. 9, 2008, file photo.

Chris Brown denies Rihanna relationship

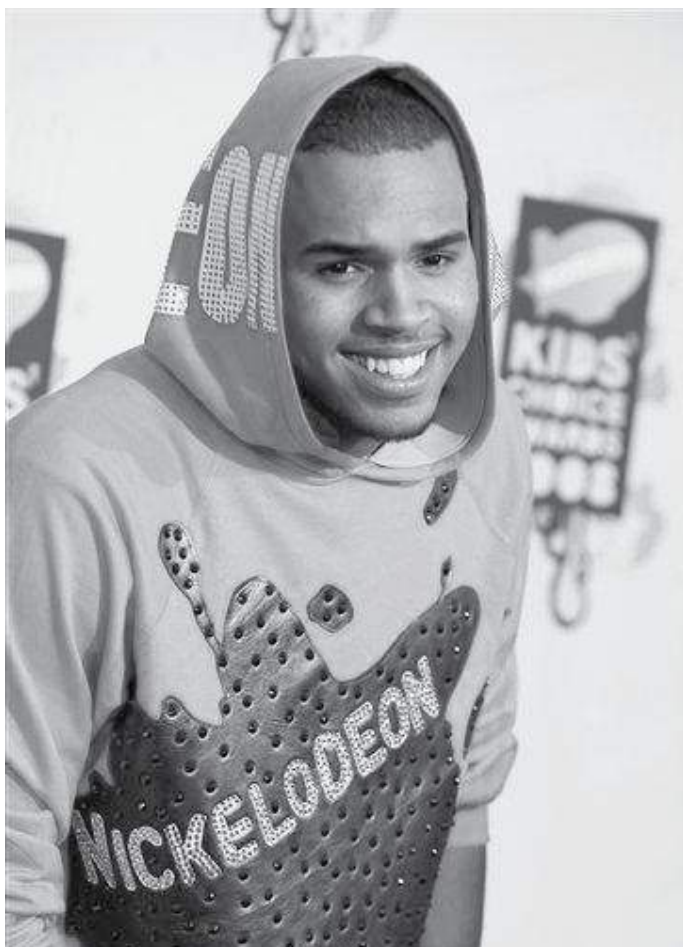
LOS ANGELES (AP)—Rihanna and Chris Brown both walked the orange carpet at the Kids' Choice Awards. Separately.

"We're not in a relationship or anything," Brown told The Associated Press before Saturday's slime-filled ceremony.

Rumors have been swirling for weeks the R&B singers are dating, but Brown was quick to squash such gossip, insisting he was single and Rihanna was just a friend. The 18-year-old "Kiss Kiss" crooner, clad in a custom-made orange hoodie emblazoned with a blingin' Nickelodeon logo, later collected a trophy for favorite male singer.

Rihanna, 20, bypassed the press line before the awards ceremony, strutting down the carpet in a polka-dot corset top.

Chris Brown arrives at the 21st Annual Kids' Choice Awards in Los Angeles, on Saturday, March 29, 2008. AP



'21' rakes in \$23M box-office jackpot

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Movie-goers laid their money down on "21," a gambling romp that was the weekend's box-office high roller with a \$23.7 million debut, according to studio estimates Sunday.

Starring Kevin Spacey, Kate Bosworth and Jim Sturgess as math geniuses who make a killing at Vegas' blackjack tables, Sony's "21" bumped off "Dr. Seuss' Horton Hears a Who!," which had been No. 1 the previous two weekends.

"Horton Hears a Who," distributed by 20th Century Fox, slipped to second place with \$17.4 million, raising its total to \$117.3 million. It is the first movie this year to pass the \$100 million mark.

Despite solid holdover crowds for "Horton," overall business continued to dip. The top 12 movies took in \$90 million, down 23 percent from the same weekend last year, when "Blades of Glory" was No. 1 with \$33 million.

Hollywood started 2008 with a strong uptick in January, but revenues have trailed off steadily since. Movie admissions had

been up as much as 10 percent in early February but now are 2.6 percent behind 2007's, according to box-office tracker Media By Numbers.

By this time last year, Hollywood already had churned out a blockbuster with "300," which eventually topped \$200 million, and other hits that included "Wild Hogs" and "Meet the Robinsons."

1. "21," \$23.7 million.
2. "Dr. Seuss' Horton Hears a Who!," \$17.4 million.
3. "Superhero Movie," \$9.5 million.
4. "Tyler Perry's Meet the Browns," \$7.8 million.
5. "Drillbit Taylor," \$5.8 million.
6. "Shutter," \$5.3 million.
7. "10,000 B.C.," \$4.9 million.
8. "Stop-Loss," \$4.5 million.
9. "College Road Trip," \$3.5 million.
10. "The Bank Job," \$2.8 million.

"Last year was very, very strong at this point. It's made comparisons very tough," said Paul Dergarabedian, president of Media By Numbers. "We're not that far into the year, so every down weekend has a huge impact on the bottom line."

This weekend's other new movies had so-so openings. Debuting at No. 3 with \$9.5 million was the MGM-Weinstein Co. release "Superhero Movie," a spoof of one of Hollywood's

favorite action genres.

Paramount's "Stop-Loss," starring Ryan Phillippe as an Iraq War veteran sent back against his wishes for another tour of duty, opened at No. 8 with \$4.5 million.

Former "Friends" co-star David Schwimmer's directing debut, the comedy "Run, Fat Boy, Run," was a dud, taking in \$2.4 million to finish out of the top 10. Released by Picturehouse, the movie stars Simon Pegg as an out-of-shape slacker running a marathon to impress his former fiancée, played by Thandie Newton.

The audience for "21" was split almost evenly between men and women and those older and younger than 25, according to Sony.

"One of the coolest things is it really did play to everyone. It got male, female, young, old," said Rory Bruer, Sony's head of distribution.

Estimated ticket sales for Friday through Sunday at U.S. and Canadian theaters, according to Media By Numbers LLC. Final figures will be released Monday.

Tone Loc plans shows for scammed bars

MILFORD, Mich. (AP)—Tone Loc plans to play shows at two bars in the Detroit area that were swindled by a man posing as the rapper's manager.

Tone Loc will play April 11 at the Red Dog Saloon in Milford and April 12 at Bumpers in Westland, The Detroit Free Press reports.

Red Dog owner Patty McMillan gave about \$400 last

summer to a man posing as Tone Loc's manager who promised his client would perform at her bar. Authorities say the man also scammed Bumpers out of \$1,000.

The scam artist hasn't been caught.

The newspaper said McMillan and Judy Johnson of Bumpers contacted Tone Loc's real manager, Bobby Bessone in

Nashville, Tenn., who said the rapper offered to play the shows for his regular fee.

Bessone did not immediately respond Sunday to a call from The Associated Press to a listing for Bessone's agency, seeking comment.

The rapper, whose real name is Anthony T. Smith, is known for the hits "Wild Thing" and "Funky Cold Medina."

Problems pile up for man with too much imagination

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



DEAR ABBY: To say I am upset is an understatement. I have a terrible problem. My wife of 22 years, "Verna," was recently sentenced to 15 years in prison. Verna, you see, always programmed our VCR. As a result, I have no idea how to record my favorite sporting events.

I begged my daughter to show me how to operate the darned thing, but she's still mad at me because when she asked me if her blue blazer made her look fat, I replied: "No, I don't think your blazer makes you look fat. It's those double cheeseburgers you've been scarfing down two at a time that make you look so fat."

I'm thinking maybe if I run a personal ad in my local paper I could meet a nice lady and get my mind off all the sports I'm missing on TV. Here's how I plan to word it: "SWM seeking single female with lots of money and a fast car. Race, age and looks unimportant. Please send picture of car."

I know you get hundreds of letters every day with the same exact problems that I have, but please tell me what to do.

—APRIL FOOL FROM FORT SMITH, ARK.

DEAR APRIL FOOL: People often ask me if I get made-up letters, and in honor of April Fools' Day, I am printing yours.

By the way, forget about the personal ad. You have enough family problems already without revving up anyone else's engine.

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I'm 13, and I have a problem with my parents. They have been having sex. That's not the problem, except for the fact that they don't wait for me to fall asleep before doing it. Tonight they had sex before saying goodnight! How do I confront them about this?

—FREAKED OUT IN ALAMEDA, CALIF.

DEAR FREAKED OUT: Tonight at dinner, say, "Mom, Dad, I think it's time we talked about the facts of life. The first fact of life is, I'm not deaf."

■ ■ ■

DEAR READERS: The following poem was written by a longtime reader, the late Jean Wells Rogers. In March of 2002, I printed a poem she had penned titled, "Old-Timer's Bedtime," which contained the heart-warming lines: "We're old and we're wrinkled, but why should we mind? We sleep like two trees—our branches entwined."

Today, I'm sharing another one of her treasures because it is both timely and relevant. Enjoy!

APRIL 1

No one goes hungry
All people are fed
The oceans are clean
Lake Erie's not dead.

The Irish aren't fighting
The Arabs love Jews
The swords are now plowshares
Now ain't that good news?

The water's delicious
The air is so clear
On top of a mountain
You see to next year.

Couples stay married
Children are jewels
Sure got you going!
APRIL FOOLS!

■ ■ ■

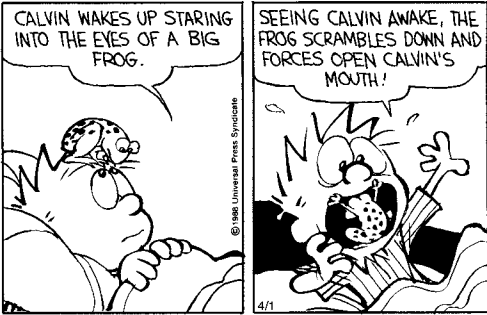
Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

■ ■ ■

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Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes



By Bill Waterson

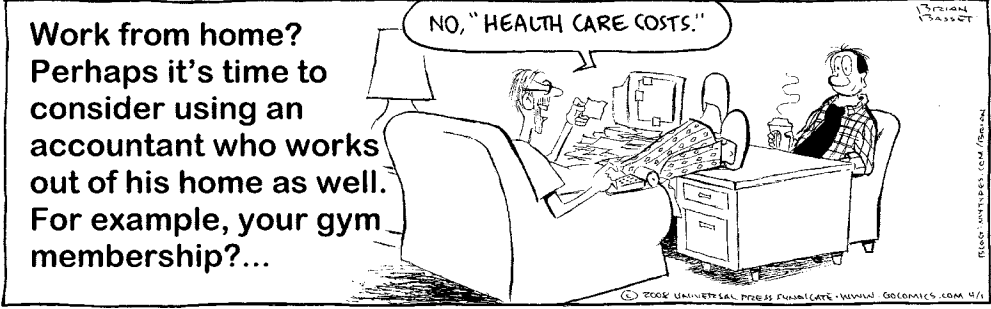
Garfield®



By Jim Davis

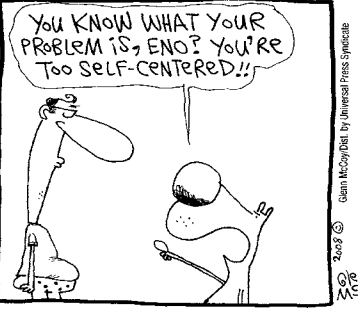


Adam@home



By Bryan Basset

The Duplex



By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Sax range

5 Buddhist sect

8 Grain storage structure

12 Crazy bird

13 Timetable abbr.

14 Second-hand

15 Medication thwarter

17 Trudge

18 Keatsian opus

19 Swiss canton

20 Adolescent years

21 Vast expanse

22 Mercury or Saturn

23 Pictorial poser

26 Curt

30 On

31 Crucial

32 Pivot

33 Immoral woman

35 Do artwork

36 Carpet

37 Madam's counterpart

38 Impales

41 Hair salon application

42 Ostrich's kin

45 Continental coin

46 Brandon Routh role

48 Freshly

49 Retirement plan acronym

50 Sword handle

51 Authentic

52 Dollar : cent :: afghani :

DOWN

1 As well

2 Stentorian

3 What sots do

4 Indivisible

5 "Horse in striped pajamas"

6 Needle holder

7 Run-down equine

8 Hollywood biggie

9 Gilligan's home

10 Trotsky or Uris

11 Probability

16 Regrets

20 Sigma follower

21 NFL climax

22 Weep

23 British rule of India

24 Summer on the Seine

25 Dickens pseudonym

26 Barbara Geddes

27 On the — vive

28 Spigoted dispenser

29 Tolkien creature

31 Small barrel

34 Clear the tables

35 Heap

37 Calyx component

38 Burn somewhat

39 Melody

40 Neighborhood

41 Mentor

42 Send forth

43 Rat's meal, in "The House That Jack Built"

44 Golden rule preposition

46 Try the tea

47 Sigma precursor

Solution time: 21 mins.

Yesterday's answer 4-1

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Hannah Spearritt, 27; Jennifer Runyon, 48; Annette O'Toole, 56; Debbie Reynolds, 76

Happy Birthday: It will be how you conduct yourself with environmental and humanitarian issues that will count. Speak up and you will gain confidence and raise awareness. The strength and courage to move forward will make the year ahead worthwhile. Your dedication, sincerity and manpower will lead to a better future. Your numbers are 12, 19, 24, 32, 42, 47

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Be bold and ask for what you want. You will be surprised how many organizations are there to help out when someone is in need. Sometimes you need to go outside your circle to get results. New relationships can be formed. ****

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Don't judge others or you will be judged in return. Pick up knowledge and skills so you are well informed about what interests you. A short trip will be valuable in terms of the people you meet or the lesson you learn. **

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Show your true feelings. Getting emotional will prove to others how much it means to you to follow the path you've chosen. This will encourage enthusiasm, inviting greater momentum and credibility to the table. *****

CANCER (June 21-July 22): You have plenty to contribute and, by doing so, you will put yourself in a good position. Positive changes are upon you, so don't shy away from something that could lead to exactly what

you need to spice up your life. ***

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Check your bank statement before you spend anything. You'll have to say no to anyone trying to borrow or asking for a handout. Emotional issues will arise with someone with whom you are trying to work. ***

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Start a new hobby or put yourself in a situation that allows you to meet new people. Don't let anyone make you feel guilty for wanting to enjoy life and try new things. Love is on the rise, so enjoy. ***

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Jealousy or criticism will work against you. Give others the benefit of the doubt. You can master something that will help you get ahead and also make some interesting new friends. *****

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Someone will work against you. It's probably got more to do with his or her own problems, not what you are doing. Focus on outside participation. Get involved with new people who can stimulate your mind. **

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Don't let your emotions lead you into temptation, arguments or taking a stubborn, nonproductive stance. It will be up to you to get whatever job you are working on done. Don't expect someone else to pick up the slack. ****

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): There is no power play that you can't overcome and win. A challenge is exactly what will get you moving. Money will not be hard for you

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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to obtain. A settlement, loan or agreement will turn in your favor. ***

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Be sure you understand what the people who count in your life are expecting from you. Use your imagination and you will come up with an inventive solution. Think on your feet and act quickly if you want others to respect you and accept your decisions. ***

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Do what you think is right and not what someone who is trying to confuse you wants. As soon as you give someone the upper hand he or she will take over. Stick to your game plan and make the alterations that best suit your personal and professional needs. ***

Birthday Baby: You are artistic, imaginative and a strong believer in helping others. You are accommodating, sincere, loving and intent on doing what's right.

Eugenia's Web sites: astroadvice.com for fun, eugenialast.com for confidential consultations

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku By Dave Green

	9	1				3	7	
4			3		8			5
7				6				4
	8						4	
		7		3		6		
	2						3	
9				2				1
3			9		5			2
	1	6				5	9	

Difficulty Level ★★

4/01

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Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

2	1	5	8	6	7	9	4	3
6	9	7	1	4	3	5	2	8
3	8	4	5	2	9	1	6	7
8	6	9	7	3	5	2	1	4
7	2	3	9	1	4	8	5	6
4	5	1	2	8	6	7	3	9
9	4	2	6	5	8	3	7	1
5	3	8	4	7	1	6	9	2
1	7	6	3	9	2	4	8	5

Difficulty Level ★

3/31

WONDERWORD By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD. The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

PRISON GUARDS Solution: 6 letters

E I M T S I S S A P L T C S S
S N O I T A L U G E R A E E C
S S F J N N F U P A R I L U S
H T A O O I I E I E T U S E C
O I A I R D M N T U R T R O T
L T N T E C I U D Y O V R R N
I U S S E N E E M D E R I E O
D T E H G M T M Y S E A D S P
A I C I P E A C E C L R M M E
Y O U F N E M N T N A L A L R
S N R T O E C I U W T X E A A
O J I S T R O I O A E C T C T
K O T S I N D R L A E L W S E
N B Y M S P K E R O T A T E S
T S E R R A S T R O P E R I H

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CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER



Davidson's magic run ends against Kansas



DETROIT (AP)—Stephen Curry darted this way, faked that way. Nothing open, and the bright red numbers on the clock getting close to zero. He was the right guy—the only guy—to take the biggest shot of the NCAA tournament.

But there wasn't one. All he could do was the pass the ball and watch as Jason Richards' desperation try thudded off the backboard. Davidson was done. Kansas was in.

"It hurts a lot to get this far, be so close to get to the Final Four," Curry said after top-seeded Kansas held off little Davidson 59-57 Sunday.

The Jayhawks' win in the Midwest Regional final sent all four No. 1 seeds to the Final Four for the first time.

"I'm definitely proud of what we've accomplished and what we're about and what we've just proven all year," Curry said. "... But it's going to hurt. This game's going to hurt a lot for the next however long."

Curry, the son of former NBA sharpshooter Dell Curry, had made the tournament his own little party, scoring at will with his silky-smooth shot and carrying Davidson to one improbable victory after another. He looked as if he might do it again, drilling a 3-pointer from NBA range to cut Kansas' lead to 59-57 with 54 seconds left.

After Kansas' Sherron Collins missed with 21 seconds left, the 10th-seeded Wildcats got one last chance.

And of course they gave the ball to Curry.

"Kansas had four guards out there and they just switched. It kind of defeated the purpose of the play," he said. "I gave them a pump fake to try to get a look, but I was off-balance when he fell down. So I saw Jay open at the top of the key, so I swung it to him."

But Richards was off-balance a bit—just enough to send make it clang rather than swish.

"I kind of had a feeling in my heart that it wasn't going in because the way he shot it. It looked like he was leaning to the left a little bit," Kansas guard Mario Chalmers said. "When I turned back, I saw it hit the backboard. I was just relieved."

Richards dropped to his back at midcourt while the Jayhawks celebrated with a measure of relief.

"Trust me, I was on both knees," Kansas coach Bill Self said. "You picture the way you win a big game like that, it would be you make a shot, you celebrate or something happens and you're able to go congratulate all your coaches and players. This was not one of those deals. I just wanted to make sure that I hurried up and shook hands and the officials left the court so they couldn't put any time back on the clock."

Kansas (35-3) moved on to play overall No. 1 seed North Carolina—and former coach Roy Williams—on Saturday, and UCLA and Memphis will round out the party at the Alamodome in San Antonio.

Three No. 1s have advanced three times, most recently in 1999.

"That means a lot to us," Chalmers said. "It makes us part of history. We wanted to come in here and be part of history and be part of our first Final Four, and we were able to do that tonight."

The win also rids Self of that dreaded "best coach never to make a Final Four" label. Self had fallen short with three different schools, including last year's edition of the Jayhawks. But this year's bunch had too much talent, depth and experience to be denied.

"It feels good just for him," said Brandon Rush, who scored eight of his 12 points in the second half. "He's been stuck in the Elite 8 for the last few years. This feels good just to make that push into the Final Four for him."

Curry, who became only the fourth player to hit the 30-point mark in his first four NCAA tournament games, finished with 25 on 9-of-25 shooting and was picked Most Outstanding Player of the Midwest Regional. His roommate, Bryant Barr, was the only other Davidson player in double figures, scoring all 11 of his points in the second half.

The loss snapped Davidson's 25-game winning streak, longest in the nation.



Kansas players hoist the trophy after beating Davidson 59-57 in the NCAA Midwest Regional basketball final Sunday, March 30, 2008, in Detroit

"The agony of this is that we came so far," Davidson coach Bob McKillop said. "We've seen and touched our dream, and we missed. We came two points away from the Final Four with a 1,700-student school in the Southern Conference."

Sasha Kaun came up with big baskets down the stretch whenever the Jayhawks needed them, and he and Chalmers scored 13 for Kansas, which ended the feel-good story of the tournament. Tiny Davidson, trying to become only the third double-digit to make the Final Four, simply ran out of gas in the stretch.

"Fatigue was definitely a factor," Curry said. "That four-guard rotation they had really took a toll."

Not that the Wildcats didn't put up a valiant fight. Curry looked exhausted much of the second half—with good reason, after leading the Wildcats to upsets of Gonzaga, Georgetown and Wisconsin. But he showed the same moxie he's had all tournament, drilling an NBA-range 3-pointer with 54 seconds left that cut Kansas' lead to 59-57.

But after making improbable shots all tournament, Davidson could not get the one it needed most.

"They had a lot of bodies and a lot of athletic guys who could chase me," Curry said. "They did make me work hard, and I had good looks at the end, but they weren't falling like they did all tournament. We can't hang our heads. We had opportunities. We just didn't execute."

Indeed, the Wildcats (29-3) have nothing to be ashamed of.

They hung with the toughest teams in the nation—Georgetown and Wisconsin had two of the stingiest defenses in the country—and gave little Davidson something to be known for besides providing free laundry to its students. The Wildcats left the floor to applause from a fan club that's gotten a lot bigger over the last two weeks, and Max Paulhus Gosselin acknowledged them by holding

up his index finger.

"This is about as tough a loss as it can get," Gosselin said. "We all played as hard as we could for the whole duration of the game. Now it's over."

For the Kansas' Jayhawks, it's just starting.

This is their 13th trip to the Final Four, but first since 2003—Williams' final season. He took the Jayhawks to the championship game—they lost to Syracuse—then bolted for his alma mater.

"Everyone knows he used to coach for KU," Collins said. "There will be a lot of emotion and a lot of heat for that game."

Memphis 85, Texas 67

At Houston, The freshman from Chicago who wears No. 23 and soars all over the court just finished getting Memphis into the Final Four when fans began chanting "One more year!"

Then Derrick Rose picked up his South Regional MVP award, clipped a piece of the net and called his mom to share the moment. He kept it brief, though, because he didn't want his teammates to see him cry.

It might be the only thing they've never seen him do.

Driving, dishing and dunking, going above the rim for rebounds and flying around to block shots, Rose led Memphis past Texas 85-67 Sunday for its first trip to the Final Four since 1985.

"I'm just living the dream right now," said Rose, who finished with 21 points, nine assists and six rebounds. "Everybody back home happy for me and our fans back in Memphis are happy, so we're just living it up."

They should.

The Tigers tied the NCAA Division I record for wins in a season, with their only loss coming to a team ranked No. 2 at the time. They've been

first, second or third in the poll all season. And to all the people who keep saying they'd be the first No. 1 seed to lose, leading scorer Chris Douglas-Roberts can say, "See you in San Antonio."

"I'm not sure if we'll get the respect we deserve, but if we don't, it doesn't matter," Douglas-Roberts said. "It's four teams left now."

Memphis will play UCLA and its freshman phenom, Kevin Love. The Tigers and Bruins have a nice little history, having met in a regional final two years ago and in the 1973 title game.

Memphis has only been back to the Final Four once, with Keith Lee leading the way in 1985. But that trip was vacated according to the NCAA record book because of rules violations. Ditto for the only other time John Calipari coached a team to the Final Four, UMass in 1996.

This March, Memphis has treated the NCAA field like it a continuation of Conference USA play. This 18-point finish was the second-closest final margin.

"We just try to go out there and prove everyone wrong," said bruising big man Joey Dorsey, who had 11 points and 12 rebounds.

The Tigers were a win away from the final weekend of the NCAA tournament each of the last two years, but couldn't get over the hump. Then again, Dean Smith never won a title at North Carolina until that other No. 23 came along, Michael Jordan.

Calipari even compared Rose to another icon of greatness, Tiger Woods. Actually, Calipari brought it up last weekend, when he passed along an article about Woods to Rose, telling him, "This is who I believe you can be, physically, skill-wise."

"He's got to improve, got to get on the range a little bit and get that stroke right, but he also has the mental capacity and the mental toughness and the intelligence to be unique and special. And it sets him apart," Calipari said.

"He's been that way since we got him, so it's nothing I've done with him. He just has a will to win. It may be with a defensive stop. It may be with a rebound that he nicked his head on the rim as he went to get it. It may be outrunning the entire field when he started behind everybody. It may be a steal, a dive, a tip out of nowhere, and then again it may be a drive, baseline and dunk on their team."

Put it this way: The only time Texas (31-7) slowed Rose in the first half was when he got popped on the gash above his right eye and needed new tape and glue job.

Rose made his first four shots and his fifth was a 3-pointer that went in, then spun out.

He opened the game with a jumper in the paint, a reminder that the Longhorns didn't have a guard big enough to block his view, much less his shot. He blocked an open-court layup by Texas star D.J. Augustin and threw a long pass to Joey Dorsey for a dunk.

"He's so evasive," Longhorns coach Rick Barnes said. "I thought early in the game that we could have picked up a couple charges, but I could tell by looking at our players' faces when I said that. They were like, 'I'm sure that looks like we can.' But he was just slippery. He just slips around and comes at you so hard, and then he comes around the rim and can just elevate and get over you."

Barnes also complimented Rose for his tempo and composure.

"He just didn't seem to get rattled," Barnes said.

Augustin scored 16 points, but was 4-of-18 and had more turnovers (four) than assists (three). All the turnovers came in the first half, like one when he ran to the baseline, turned to throw a pass and saw no one open, so he just dropped it out of bounds. Memphis' size, speed and athleticism kept Texas from ever getting into a groove.

"They are just as athletic as anybody else," said Texas' A.J. Abrams, who has faced UCLA, Kansas, Tennessee and Michigan State this season. "I think they spread the court a little bit more than those other teams as far as driving the ball, and they use every position."

Abrams scored only two points in the first half, but finished with a team-high 17. Nobody else scored more than eight. The outside-shooting frontcourt of Connor Atchley and Damion James were 1-of-10 on 3-pointers.

Romero wins Zurich for 1st PGA title

AVONDALE, La. (AP)—Argentina's Andres Romero walked off the TPC Louisiana a happy man Sunday afternoon. Three hours later, he felt even better.

Romero won the Zurich Classic in his 12th career start on the PGA Tour, closing with a 4-under 68 hours before the other contenders finished en route to a one-stroke victory over Australia's Peter Lonard.

"I played great these last 36 holes," Romero said. "I made just one bogey in 36 holes, and it's not very common for me to make one bogey in two rounds. But that was the key to being here in contention at this tournament."

Romero, a shot behind John Merrick on Sunday morning after the completion of the third round, had a 13-under 275 total on the TPC Louisiana and earned \$1,116,000.

Speaking through an interpreter, Romero said he was very relaxed during the wait to see if his score would hold up.

"I was in the players lounge having some lunch and chatting with my friends," he said. "I had some lunch and called home and told my mom.

They had to do the job, because I had already done mine."

Lonard had a chance to force a play-off, but missed a long birdie putt on 18.

Lonard opened with a pair birdies, bogeyed Nos. 3 and 10, then birdied Nos. 8, 11, 14 and 16 to tie Romero at 13 under. The Australian's putt for par on 17 stopped 4 inches shy of the cup, and his par on 18 left him with a 69.

"I think in a perfect world you'd rather come down the stretch together," Lonard said. "But I think if there's ever a chance you're going to actually shoot the score - if they give you three hours' notice you probably should be able to if you're good enough."

Romero, who opened with a 73 on

AP
Andres Romero, of Argentina, holds the championship trophy after winning the Zurich Classic golf tournament at TPC Louisiana in Avondale, La., Sunday March 30th, 2008.

Thursday, whittled away at the lead with a 69, then a 65 in the rain-delayed third round. In the final round, Romero offset a bogey on the sixth hole with five birdies.

The consolation for Lonard — b e -

sides the \$669,600 second-place money—is that the runner-up finish should get him into the Masters by moving him from No. 72 to No. 50 in the world. The Zurich Classic was the final week to earn a spot at Augusta National through the world ranking.

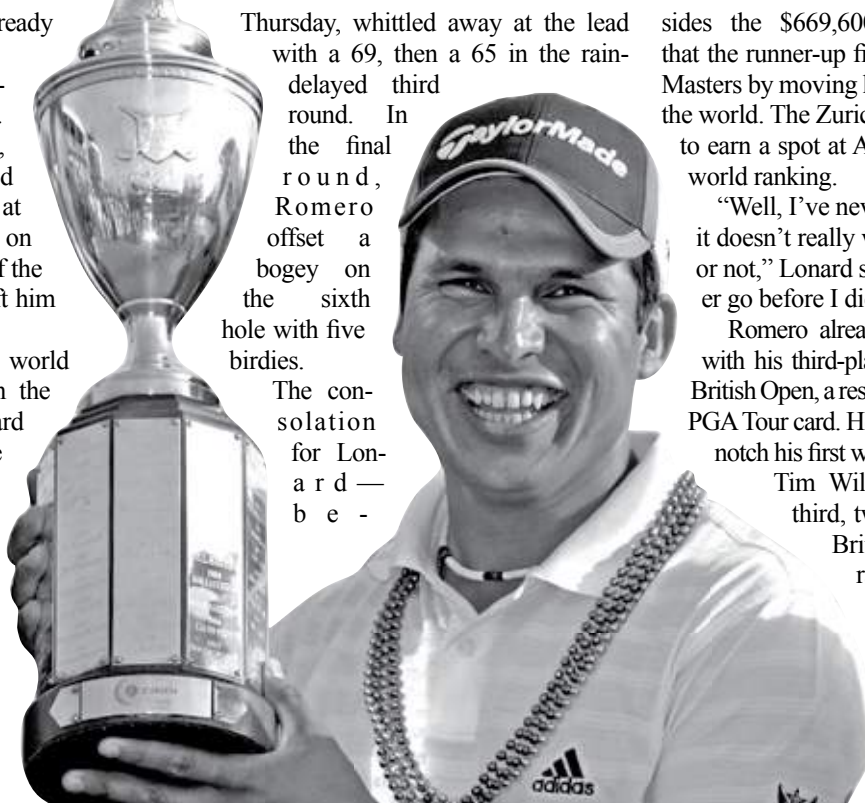
"Well, I've never made a cut at Augusta, so it doesn't really worry me whether I'm going or not," Lonard said. "But I would like another go before I die."

Romero already qualified for the Masters with his third-place finish last summer in the British Open, a result that helped him earn a 2008 PGA Tour card. He's the fourth straight player to notch his first win at the Zurich Classic.

Tim Wilkinson shot a 67 to finish third, two strokes back at 11 under.

British Open champion Padraig Harrington (69), Woody Austin (71) and Nicholas Thompson (71) followed at 10 under.

Stewart Cink was disqualified after signing an incorrect scorecard after the third round.



Nats open new park on Zimmerman's HR



WASHINGTON (AP) — Nationals

Park had quite an opening.

Ryan Zimmerman hit a tie-breaking homer off Peter Moylan with two outs in the ninth inning, and the Washington Nationals beat the Atlanta Braves 3-2 Sunday night in the first regular-season game at the \$611 million stadium.

With the dome of the U.S. Capitol lit up against the black night sky beyond left field, and the Washington Monument visible from patches of the upper deck, Zimmerman raised his right fist as he rounded first base. Teammates spilled out of the dugout—it's along the first-base line now, not the third-base line, like at old RFK Stadium—and greeted the face of the franchise at home plate for celebratory pounds on the back.

Twenty-four straight Washington batters had made out before the home run—Washington's fourth hit of the game and first since the first inning.

Nick Johnson delivered an RBI double in his first at-bat in more than 18 months, Odalis Perez matched Tim Hudson, and Jon Rauch (1-0) earned the victory after blowing a save in the top of the ninth.

All in all, it sent the paid crowd of 39,389 heading away with even more to smile about than the gleaming white-stone-and-glass ballpark.

With President Bush on hand to throw out the ceremonial first pitch, the Nationals had their first victory in a season opener in four tries since moving to the nation's capital from Montreal.

Zimmerman was larger than life as he rounded the bases, then came out of the dugout for a curtain call - it all was shown on the 4,500-plus square foot high-definition video board

above right-center, the most immediately noticeable perk of the new digs. It's about three times larger than the scoreboard at creaky, leaky RFK, a remnant from the 1960s that was the Nationals' home from 2005-07.

"We've waited for so long for a place that can be our own," Zimmerman said. "There are just too many people on this team that are tired of being mediocre."

The Nationals were one out from the victory, ahead 2-1 in the ninth. But Rauch was pressed into closing duty because Chad Cordero has right shoulder tendinitis, and the tying run scored on a passed ball charged to Paul Lo Duca, signed during the off-season as a free agent.

It was a couple of holdovers who drove in Washington's runs, both in the first inning. Johnson, who missed all of 2007 with a broken leg, provided an RBI double, sliding into second as if he'd never been away. Johnson then slid again, as if for emphasis, when he scored on Austin Kearns' single.

After that, Hudson was perfect. He retired his last 19 batters, departing after allowing three hits over seven innings. Perhaps surprisingly, Perez was Hudson's equal. A left-hander signed in mid-February to a minor league deal, Perez gave up one run in five innings—on Chipper Jones' solo homer in the fourth.

The Braves boasted their own, more modest, debut Sunday: alternate road uniforms. The navy blue caps with a white "A," and navy jerseys with a white, script "Atlanta" on the chest represent the first change to the team's away getup since 1987.

Everywhere else one looked, there was a curly "W"—on the red hats Nationals players and so many fans wore, at the center of the giant clock attached to the main scoreboard, etched into the grass in center field, carved

into the dirt at the back of the pitcher's mound.

Those were the least of the differences between the team's old home and its new one.

"You just can't compare it," Nationals manager Manny Acta said. "It's top-of-the-line. It's exciting to come to work every day here."

Fans arrived as early as 6 a.m. to buy \$5 upper-deck tickets, and there were no apparent transportation problems, with about 50 buses lined up for the free, 10-minute shuttle service from parking lots at RFK. The Nationals encouraged fans to arrive early, and they did. At one gate, there was a line three blocks long, but police redirected those spectators elsewhere, and the place was pretty close to full when President Bush strode to the mound in a red Nationals warmup jacket to renew an old baseball tradition.

Greeted by a fugue of cheers and jeers, Bush—former owner of the Texas Rangers—threw the ceremonial first pitch to Acta.

The Braves took the unusual step of taking full infield and outfield practice before the game, aiming to learn the ins and outs of the place.

To a man, Nationals players have said they haven't had time to learn all of the quirks of their new digs, yet right fielder Kearns contributed a nice play in the second inning, turning Brian McCann's single into an out at second. Kearns perfectly played the carom off the bullpen wall, turned and made a throw to second baseman Ronnie Beliard, who relayed the ball to shortstop Cristian Guzman, who tagged out McCann.

The next inning, the Braves collected their second hit of the season - and followed it up with their second baserunning gaffe of the season. This time, it was Kelly Johnson who singled to center, then was caught stealing.

Celtics frost Heat, coast to 88-62 victory



BOSTON (AP)—Kevin Garnett scored twice before Miami made a basket, and the Boston Celtics held the Heat to an NBA-record low 17 field goals, coasting to an 88-62 victory Sunday.

The matchup of the NBA's best team and its worst was even more lopsided than anticipated. Boston was up 27-4 after 10 minutes and Celtics coach Doc Rivers started subbing for his starters just 7:10 into the game. Boston's reserves finished the first quarter, handled most of the second and all of the fourth as no starter played more than 25 minutes.

Leon Powe had 17 points and 13 rebounds for Boston, and Garnett finished with 12 points, five assists and eight rebounds in 21 minutes.

Lakers 126, Wizards 120

At Los Angeles, Kobe Bryant scored six of his 26 points in overtime, and Los Angeles downed Washington to snap a two-game losing skid.

Sasha Vujacic scored 20 points, Luke Walton added 19, Vladimir Radmanovic 18 and Lamar Odom had 10 points and 13 rebounds as the Lakers notched their 50th victory for the 29th time in franchise history.

Rookie Nick Young led the Wizards with a career-high 27 points and DeShawn Stevenson matched him. Caron Butler had 17 points, 12 rebounds and 12 assists, and Antawn Jamison added 17.

Trailing by a point with a minute left in overtime, the Lakers went to Bryant, who two days ago scored 53 in a 114-111 loss to Memphis.

He hit three consecutive free throws to put them ahead for good. The Wizards were scoreless over the final 1:18.

Warriors 114, Mavericks 104

At Oakland, California, Monta El-

lis scored 30 points and Kelenna Azubuike hit two clutch shots down the stretch to help Golden State create a three-way tie for seventh place in the ultracompetitive Western Conference.

With nine games remaining, Dallas, Golden State and Denver are all even at 45-28. If the season ended today, the Warriors would be on the outside looking in at the playoffs because they have lost two of three to both the Nuggets and Mavericks. But if Golden State manages to beat Denver and Dallas in their final meetings, the Mavericks would be the odd team out in a three-way tie.

Josh Howard scored 36 to lead Dallas in his third straight 30-point game since Nowitzki went down with the injury.

Spurs 109, Rockets 88

In San Antonio, Tony Parker and Michael Finley scored 22 points apiece and the San Antonio Spurs cruised to their seventh straight victory.

The much-hyped matchup between the Southwest Division rivals turned out to be more of a dud. The Spurs had the lead for nearly the entire game and led by as many as 25 points.

Luis Scola scored a season-high 24 points for the Rockets, and Tracy McGrady and Rafer Alston each had 13 points after shooting a combined 9-of-38.

Timberwolves 110, Jazz 103

In Minneapolis, Al Jefferson had 22 points and eight rebounds and Rashad McCants scored 13 of his 16 points in the second half for Minnesota.

Corey Brewer tied a career high with 16 points and had seven rebounds for the Timberwolves, who have now beaten the Jazz at home twice this season.

Carlos Boozer had 25 points and 10 rebounds for the short-handed Jazz, who are nearly unbeatable at home but just 16-22 on the road this year. The Jazz were missing Andrei Kirilenko (calf) and Mehmet Okur (illness).

Hawks 114, Knicks 109

In Atlanta, Marvin Williams scored 27 points and Joe Johnson had 23 to help Atlanta win its third straight.

The Hawks increased their lead over New Jersey to 21/2 games for the eighth and final spot in the Eastern Conference playoff race.

New York dropped to 7-29 on the road and has lost two straight and seven of eight overall.

Hornets 118, Raptors 111

In Toronto, David West scored 32 points and Chris Paul had 20 points and 16 assists to lead New Orleans to its 50th victory.

Peja Stojakovic scored 25 and Tyson Chandler had 17 points and 10 rebounds as the Hornets bounced back from a 20-point loss in Boston on Friday night to win for the sixth time in seven games. The Hornets reached 50 wins for the first time since the 1997-98 season.

Cavaliers 91, 76ers 88

In Cleveland, LeBron James made a twisting bank shot with 19.3 seconds left to put Cleveland ahead to stay.

James finished with 26 points, and a day after he made 4-of-17 shots in Saturday's loss to Detroit, was 11-of-18 from the field with nine rebounds and nine assists.

Andre Iguodala, who led the 76ers with 19 points, missed a 3-pointer at the buzzer.

Kings 120, SuperSonics 107

At Seattle, Kevin Martin scored 31 points, Ron Artest had 29 and Sacramento broke away in the final period to beat Seattle.

Francisco Garcia also contributed 21 points for Sacramento (33-40), which had lost four of its previous five games.

Kevin Durant scored 25 points to lead Seattle, which hasn't beaten the Kings in Seattle since Nov. 20, 2005, a five-game losing streak.

Red Bull off to inspiring start

MANILA, Philippines—Judging his sterling debut, Adam Parada could really be a gem of a find for Red Bull.

The seven-foot import Parada erupted for 28 points and 21 rebounds in his first game with the Barakos, leading the team past the Barangay Ginebra Kings, 89-83, in the second play date of the 2007-08 PBA Fiesta Conference at the Araneta Coliseum Sunday.

“We didn’t expect to get such a good game from Adam. We know he’s an effective big man.

He’s proven he’s more than that. He makes good decision,” said Red Bull coach Yeng Guiao.

Image
“He’s not flashy but very effective. He’ll plug the hole in our doughnut,” Guiao also said of his import, a Mexican-American who’s a mainstay of the Mexican national team for quite sometime now.

Cyrus Baguio and Mike Hrabak were the Red Bull locals who made big contribution with coach Guiao opting not to field in Junthy Valenzuela hinting at his forthcoming transfer to Ba-

rangay Ginebra.
Red Bull and Ginebra are apparently in the closing stage of their trade deal involving Valenzuela and Sunday Salvacion.

“I chose not to use Junthy because I don’t want to put him in a situation na maaalangan sya,” said Guiao.

Ginebra coach Jong Uichico, curiously, also opted not to use Salvacion.

Mark Caguioa erupted for a game-high 33 points with import Rashon Turner concentrating on rebounding and defending against the much taller Parada.

FIESTA-GRAND

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and chipped in 11 markers.

Mendoza and Umali combined for more than half of Hyatt’s points scoring 38 and 26 apiece, while Steven Tenorio added 15 points with Dexter Dillay and Magno contributing 10 each.

Visibly missing in the Hyatt offensive rotation were guards Krisgel Arreza and Aquino, who both had an off night after being limited to seven and six points, respectively. Aquino’s points also came in the second half.

In the first game, James Abuy scored 18 of his game-high 28 points in the second half to help PIC foil Aqua Resort’s title-retention bid, 79-70.

NOBLE

From Page 28

veteran triathlete all throughout the race. He had a total time of 2:31:21 to enjoy a 58-second lead over closest pursuer Hideo Sato of Japan, 2:32:19.

Carey, meanwhile, was the overall winner in the women’s division with a combined swim, bike, and run time of 2:47:15, finishing eight minutes and 13 seconds ahead of Guam’s Shannon Cutting, 2:55:28.

CAMACHO

From Page 28

two singles and one run to lead the Dolphins’ batting.

In other Senior League games, The Dolphins scored back-to-back wins against the Fielders, 12-7, on March 24, and the Lion Hearts, 11-3, on March 22.

The Jets blanked the Fielders, 10-0, on March 16, while the Dolphins scored a 15-0 shutout against D9ers on March 15.

JUNIOR LEAGUE Lion Hearts 6, Ol’Aces 4

Ricardo Dela Cruz pitched 2 1/2 one-hit innings in relief to lead the Kagman Lion Hearts to a 6-4 win over the UMDA Ol’Aces. He also had four strikeouts and one walk.

Dela Cruz foiled Ol’Aces’ comeback bid in the top of the seventh when he allowed Kevin Yamada to ground out while Caleb Arriola and Jacob Flores

PIC won eventhough bull-strong Derrick Tudela was held to a season-low six points as Butch Kaipat and Marino Pungilug took over the scoring chores for the San Antonio hotel. Kaipat and Pungilug finished with 17 and 15 points.

Glenn Aquino had a season-high 23 points, while Darwin Barbo added 19 more but they could not tow the Achugao hotel to another finals appearance.

Ziddy Johannes chipped in 14 points while Gil Gapor had 10 markers also for Aqua Resort, which only had five players scoring with Claud Calvo ending up with four points.

First Game

Pacific Islands Club 79 – Abuy 28, Kaipat 17, Pungilug

Tamuning’s Susan Seay finished third with a time of 3:07:39.

Other Saipan triathletes that competed in XTERRA Guam were Butch Sublemente (3:02:13), Russ Quinn (3:06:22), and Kevin Carey (3:15:17).

Sublemente finished fourth in the 35-39 age group, while Quinn was sixth in the 40-44 division. Carey placed eighth in the 35-39 class.

Newly elected Northern Mariana Islands Triathlon Federation president Quinn com-

to fly out.

In other matches, the Fielders edged Ol’Aces on March 25, 18-17; the Jets scored consecutive wins over the Fielders on March 24, 20-10, and the Lion Hearts on March 22, 9-4; while the Jets dumped Ol’Aces on March 16, 14-2. The Lion Hearts also scored a 3-1 decision over the Fielders on March 15.

BIG LEAGUE Hustlers 5, Aztecs 4

Joel Satur tripled to allow Mario Lisua score the winning run as the Hustlers of manager Tony Celis escaped with a 5-4 win over the Jack Reyes-mentored UMDA Aztecs.

Tied after 6 1/2 innings, Lawrence Dikito hit Mario Lisua by a pitch then forced Luis Arriola to fly out at center field for the first out but could not keep Satur from hitting an RBI triple that ended the game.

Satur went 2-for-4 with one run, a triple, and an RBI. John

15, Lee 6, Tudela 6, Tolentino 5, Fernandez 2.

Aqua Resort Club 70 – Aquino 23, Barbo 19, Johannes 14, Gapor 10, Calvo 4.

Scoring by quarters: 17-14, 40-33, 60-50, 79-70.

Referees: Gilbert Espinosa and Arnold Mesa.

Second Game

Fiesta-Grand Hotel 118 – Sanciango 41, Esdrelon 32, Opone 18, Carino 11, David 8, Jinang 4, Ong 2, Sabino 2.

Hyatt Regency Saipan 116 – Mendoza 38, Umali 26, Tenorio 15, Dillay 10, Magno 10, Arreza 7, Aquino 6, Vargas 4.

Scoring by quarters: 27-22, 49-48, 94-80, 118-116.

Referees: Eric Artillaga and Jess Pabula.

mended Guam Triathlon Federation president Eric Tydingco for organizing the race.

A total of 100 persons participated individually and in teams in the race that started at Apra Harbor. Quinn said the bike leg was composed mostly of downhill courses.

“The run was fun too, the first mile was flat road to work out those jello legs, and then things got exciting. After a small climb, we dropped into a ravine with waterfalls, and shallow pools,” said Quinn.

Mafnas pitched a complete game with seven hits, three earned runs, four strikeouts, and no walks.

Dikito went 2-for-3 with one run, while Sisior Techur went 2-for-3 with a run and a triple for the Aztecs.

In other games, the Jets cruised to a 12-2 win over the Dolphins on March 29 but lost to the Aztecs, 4-5, on March 24. They also scored an 11-4 win over the Falcons on March 22.

The Aztecs, meanwhile, won by default against the Hustlers on March 18 after the latter didn’t have enough players to suit up for the game.

On March 16, Nicolas San Nicolas pitched the season’s first no hitter and shutout when the Aztecs crushed the Dolphins, 11-0. San Nicolas pitched five innings with no hits, 11 strikeouts, and no walks.

The Hustlers grounded the Jets on March 15, 11-5, while the Jets scored a 6-5 win over the Aztecs on March 8.

SIX-RUN

From Page 28

defending champion Tanapag Falcons, which is also undefeated after three games. The Korean Dreams are in third with a 3-1 card followed by the Ford Rangers’ 2-1 slate. The loss dropped the D9ers to fifth place.

Kabur has yet to win a game after three matches, while Komoro and the struggling Tigers, which played in the finals against the Falcons last year, are at the cellar with similar 0-4 records.

Jonathan Camacho pitched two shutout innings in relief

allowing three hits with two strikeouts, and one walk.

The two also held the D9ers to a combined 9-for-30 in batting, while the Rock Steady offense was in full swing with their 17-for-38 tally.

Lead-off batter Tyrone Omar, who also holds the CNMI National record in the 100m dash, started off the Rock Steady hit parade going 2-for-3 with a run scored, a double, one stolen base, and two RBIs.

Dane Lizama went 2-for-4 with two runs, two stolen bases, and two RBIs, while veteran sluggers Tony Celis and Manny Sablan combined for 4-for-9 and three runs. Celis also had a stolen base

while Sablan had a double.

Byron Kaipat went 2-for-4 with three runs and two RBIs, while Roy Celis and Martin Pangelinan combined for 4-for-10 with three runs. Celis also had a double while Pangelinan had two stolen bases and one RBI.

Nick San Nicolas showed he is not only good in pitching but in batting as well, going 2-for-5 with a triple and five RBIs. He had a two-RBI single in Rock Steady’s six-run fifth inning rally.

Kabur was playing against Komoro at press time, while the Falcons fared the D9ers in a battle between Saipan’s north-ermmost teams.



TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

NBA STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
y-Boston	58	15	.795	-
Toronto	37	36	.507	21
Philadelphia	37	37	.500	21 1/2
New Jersey	31	43	.419	27 1/2
New York	20	53	.274	38

Southeast Division

x-Orlando	47	27	.635	-
Washington	38	35	.521	8 1/2
Atlanta	33	40	.452	13 1/2
Charlotte	28	45	.384	18 1/2
Miami	13	60	.178	33 1/2

Central Division

y-Detroit	52	21	.712	-
x-Cleveland	41	33	.554	11 1/2
Indiana	30	43	.411	22
Chicago	29	44	.397	23
Milwaukee	24	48	.333	27 1/2

WESTERN CONFERENCE Southwest Division

New Orleans	50	22	.694	-
San Antonio	51	23	.689	-
Houston	49	24	.671	1 1/2
Dallas	45	28	.616	5 1/2
Memphis	19	54	.260	31 1/2

Northwest Division

Utah	48	26	.649	-
Denver	45	28	.616	2 1/2
Portland	38	36	.514	10
Minnesota	19	53	.264	28
Seattle	17	57	.230	31

Pacific Division

L.A. Lakers	50	24	.676	-
Phoenix	49	24	.671	1/2
Golden State	45	28	.616	4 1/2
Sacramento	33	40	.452	16 1/2
L.A. Clippers	22	51	.301	27 1/2

x-clinched playoff spot

y-clinched division

Yesterday's Games

San Antonio 109, Houston 88
Minnesota 110, Utah 103
Atlanta 114, New York 109
Boston 88, Miami 62
New Orleans 118, Toronto 111
Cleveland 91, Philadelphia 88
Sacramento 120, Seattle 107
Golden State 114, Dallas 104
L.A. Lakers 126, Washington 120, OT

NBA LEADERS Scoring

	G	FG	FT	PTS	AVG
James, Clev.	66	715	493	2025	30.7
Bryant, LAL	73	707	545	2088	28.6
Iverson, Den.	72	631	577	1923	26.7
Anthony, Den.	67	627	413	1714	25.6
Stoudemire, Phoe.	69	614	476	1709	24.8
Wade, Mia.	51	439	354	1254	24.6
Nowitzki, Dall.	69	556	448	1625	23.6
Martin, Sac.	54	363	434	1256	23.3
Redd, Mil.	61	466	360	1404	23.0
Jefferson, N.J.	73	549	508	1675	22.9
Maggette, LAC	62	413	499	1390	22.4
Bosh, Tor.	57	432	403	1272	22.3
Davis, G.S.	71	568	285	1571	22.1
McGrady, Hou.	57	477	210	1242	21.8
Boozer, Utah	72	646	275	1567	21.8

Jamison, Wash.	72	569	307	1553	21.6
J. Johnson, Atl.	72	560	284	1553	21.6
Paul, N.O.	69	561	283	1488	21.6
Howard, Orl.	74	538	495	1571	21.2
Richardson, Char.	72	558	202	1528	21.2
Carter, N.J.	68	520	319	1441	21.2

FG Percentage

	FG	FGA	PCT
Biedrins, G.S.	278	448	.621
Chandler, N.O.	317	527	.602
Howard, Orl.	538	901	.597
O'Neal, Phoe.	281	474	.593
Childress, Atl.	286	490	.584
Stoudemire, Phoe.	614	1052	.584
Smith, Minn.	279	489	.571
Lee, N.Y.	293	527	.556
Brewer, Utah	322	584	.551
Boozer, Utah	646	1181	.547

Rebounds

	G	OFF	DEF	TOT	AVG
Howard, Orl.	74	262	807	1069	14.4
Camby, Den.	69	207	720	927	13.4
Chandler, N.O.	68	288	537	825	12.1
Duncan, S.A.	69	217	581	798	11.6
Jefferson, Minn.	71	281	534	815	11.5
Boozer, Utah	72	182	598	780	10.8
Okafor, Char.	72	234	538	772	10.7
Odum, LAL	68	176	545	721	10.6
Jamison, Wash.	72	202	545	747	10.4
Dalembert, Phil.	73	266	482	748	10.2

Assists

	G	AST	AVG
Paul, N.O.	69	783	11.3
Nash, Phoe.	71	793	11.2
Williams, Utah	73	758	10.4
Kidd, Dall.	70	711	10.2
Calderson, Tor.	72	600	8.3
Davis, G.S.	71	553	7.8
James, Clev.	66	485	7.3
Iverson, Den.	72	520	7.2
Billups, Det.	69	490	7.1
Felton, Char.	69	487	7.1

ZURICH CLASSIC SCORES

AVONDALE, Louisiana (AP)—Final scores and earnings Sunday from the Zurich Classic, a \$6.2 million (€4 million) U.S. PGA Tour event at the 7,341-yard, par-72 TPC Louisiana (FedExCup points in parentheses):

Andres Romero (4500), \$1,116,000	73-69-65-68	275
Peter Lonard (2700), \$669,600	67-70-70-69	276
Tim Wilkinson (1700), \$421,600	71-68-71-67	277
Padraig Harrington (1033), \$256,267	71-70-68-69	278
Woody Austin (1033), \$256,267	69-71-67-71	278
Nicholas Thompson (1033), \$256,267	69-71-67-71	278
Tim Petrovic (779), \$193,233	74-68-66-71	279
John Merrick (779), \$193,233	72-67-67-73	279
Tommy Armour III (779), \$193,233	70-68-75-66	279
Steve Elkington (650), \$161,200	68-71-72-69	280
Marco Dawson (650), \$161,200	71-68-70-71	280
WC Liang (0), \$110,825	71-72-69-69	281
Jonathan Byrd (447), \$110,825	72-71-67-71	281
John Senden (447), \$110,825	74-69-66-72	281
James Driscoll (447), \$110,825	75-67-73-66	281
Dudley Hart (447), \$110,825	73-69-68-71	281
Pat Perez (447), \$110,825	71-70-71-69	281
Parker McLachlin (447), \$110,825	72-67-71-71	281
Briny Baird (447), \$110,825	67-69-71-74	281
Jason Bohn (302), \$74,813	74-68-72-68	282
Jon Mills (302), \$74,813	71-70-69-72	282
Roland Thatcher (302), \$74,813	70-70-70-72	282
Charles Warren (196), \$48,670	70-74-68-71	283
Jose Coceres (196), \$48,670	75-68-68-72	283

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOCAL SCORES

SML Standings

Rock Steady	5	0
Tanapag Falcons	3	0
Korean Dreams	3	1
Ford Rangers	2	1
D9ers	2	2
Kabur	0	3
Komoro	0	4
Tigers	0	4

FMI Basketball Standings

Advance X-Terminators	1	0
Shirley's Coffee Shop	1	0
Ol'Aces	1	0
GEC Pawnship	1	0
TASI Tours Giants	1	1
Price Costco	0	1
MIGS	0	1
SMF-Seabridge	0	2

GEC Pawnshop demolishes MIGS

By JON PEREZ

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REPORTER

GEC Pawnshop created an early four-way tie for the lead in the Inaugural FMI Inter-Color Basketball League after a 111-76 demolition of MIGS on Sunday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

The Pawnbrokers now join opening day winners Advance X-Terminators and Shirley's Coffee Shop, and Ol'Aces on top of the standings with similar 1-0 marks.

Mark Wallace led the GEC assault scoring 22 of his team-high 35 points in the first half where the Pawnbrokers pulled away. He had 13 of his team's 30 first quarter points as GEC zoomed to a 30-9 lead and was never threatened after that.

Amor Casabuena added 15 points, while Saipan Southern High School standout Manuel Ajoste and Larry Palero chipped in 13 markers each with Jake Celes contributing 12 more.

Raymond Cadagat poured in a game-high 42 points

to pace MIGS scoring, while Johnny Badilles added 13 markers. No other player scored in double figures.

Other teams seeing action in the open division of the league are Pacific Telecoms, Inc. and Blue House.

Aside from the Ada gym, games will also be played at the Construction and Material Supply basketball court in Gualo Rai or at the CIC basketball court in Garapan.

The league will have three play dates every week—Friday, Saturday, and Sunday.

League coordinator Boy Garcia said no games are scheduled in the 40-and-over division yet as he is still finalizing details of the masters league.

For more information about the Inaugural FMI Inter-Color Basketball League, call Garcia at 233-0802.

GEC Pawnshop 111 — Wallace 35, Casabuena 15, Ajoste 13, Palero 13, Celes 12, Camacho 7, Wesley 7, Cacho 5, Lopez 2, D. Olivos 2.

MIGS 76 — Cadagat 42, Badilles 13, Doronila 6, Dugos 6, Cabadon4, Banatasa 2, Lumauag 2, Delarma 1.

Mettao mesmerizes field in qualifier

By MARK RABAGO

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ASSISTANT EDITOR

John Mettao fired the score to beat in this coming Refuluwasch Golf Association April Ace of the Month Tournament after topping the qualifier with a superb net score of 65.

Mettao's 65, built around a gross score of 80 (39-41), actually was only second in last Sunday's tournament to Asterio Tawanpiy's scorching net 62 (Gross 76, 37-39). But since the latter already won the February Ace, Mettao had the qualifying score to beat.

Third place during the qualifier, held at the Laolao Bay Golf Resort east course, went to Joe Wabol and his net 68 (86, 41-45), while Don Dunlop and Bill Kaipat tied at fourth and fifth with identical 69s.

Joe Demapan (70), Tars Olopai (70), Andy Ne-paial (70), Nick Sablan (72), Jordan Kossam (72), Adam Hardwicke (75), Sonny Flores (75), Louie Tilipao (76), and Jess Wabol (78) also took part in

the April qualifier.

In the closet to the pin, Mettao was without peer in hole No. 6, while Demapan was the best in hole No. 15.

The RGA April Ace of the Month Tournament will be held on April 13 at the same Kagman golf venue.

In related news, RGA reminded the public that that the club has halved its membership dues for 2008 from the long-standing fee of \$50 to only \$25.

This happened after RGA recognized the hard economic times and decided to give its members and future members a break by slashing the cost of becoming part of RGA.

The club hopes that by making membership in RGA a little lighter in the pocket, more weekend warriors will now return to the golf links and renew their membership or apply as new members of the golf club.

For more information about RGA's new membership policies and other competitions held by the club, contact Hardwicke at 483-2926 or Wabol at 233-3673.

Tournament of Fools Golf to push through today

The Inaugural Dan Hughes Memorial Tournament of Fools Golf will push through today, April 1, at the Laolao Bay Golf Course east course.

The tournament is in memory of Dan Hughes, former owner of Coffee Care and friends with many in Micronesia.

According to one of the tournament organizers, Richard Pierce, Hughes' 10 years of tournaments were traditionally customer appreciation events, without the usual trips to Hawaii and Guam, or cash prizes.

However, Pierce said the coveted Tournament of Fools jackets will be awarded along with Hughes' traditional favorite, the Big Salami, to the team with the worst score. All other prizes are minimal in value and donated by the participants.



MARK RABAGO

Jeff Taylor, seen here in a file photo, is one of the organizers of today's Inaugural Dan Hughes Memorial Tournament of Fools Golf Tournament at the Laolao Bay Golf Resort.

The Inaugural Dan Hughes Memorial Tournament of Fools Golf will adopt a four-person best-ball format.

Proceeds—past expenses for green fees, banquet costs, and some refreshments—will be donated to a charity to be named at the dinner. The entrance fee is \$100, while those wanting to attend just the dinner afterwards will pay a banquet fee only.

Tournament slots are limited at the Kagman golf facility due to heavy course play.

For more information about the

Inaugural Dan Hughes Memorial Tournament of Fools Golf Tournament and awards banquet ceremonies, contact Richard Pierce (rapierce@itec-nmi.com) at 483-6615, Jeff Taylor (Jeff.Taylor@dfs.com) at 483-2513 or Alex Sablan (saiship@pticom.com) at 888-3279. (Mark Rabago)



SAIPAN TRIBUNE
GEC Pawnshop's Mark Wallace, seen here in action against Palau in a file photo from the 2006 Micronesian Games, scored 35 points to lead his team against MIGS in the Inaugural FMI Inter-Color Basketball League last Sunday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

MBA opens title bid vs SIS in PSL caging

By JON PEREZ

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REPORTER

Reigning high school boys champion Marianas Baptist Academy Stormz will open up its title-retention bid against the Saipan International School Geckos at the start of the 2008 basketball season of the Private Schools League.

The Stormz will visit the Geckos at their As Lito campus today, April 1, at 3:30pm in the first half of the season, from April 1 to 15, where the boys will open every game, while the second half, from April 17 to May 2, the girls will play first.

The Stormz, which finished the regular season last year with a 5-4 slate, scored a 57-53 upset win over the Mt. Carmel School Knights, which was undefeated in the elimination round.

The Calvary Christian Academy Sharks will face the Knights at the CCA court in the other game. The Grace Christian Academy Eagles is the other team in the boys division.

In the girls side, the SIS Lady Eagles will visit the GCA Lady Eagles on Thursday, April 3, to start its bid for a third straight title. They take the court after their boys teams collide at 3:30pm.

The Lady Geckos, last year, successfully completed its back-to-back title season with a 44-31 triumph over the Lady Knights.

MBA will host the Knights on the same day in a rematch of last year's finals.

On Friday, April 4, the Lady

Knights will battle the Lady Eagles at Mt. Carmel School in the lone girls match.

The competing teams in the boys division are SIS, GCA, MCS, CCA, and MBA, while the girls are composed of SIS, GCA, and MCS.

Games in the high school division will be played every Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays. A 10-minute warm up, which is only applicable to schools with boys and girls teams, will be given to both teams in between games.

A coaches meeting is also scheduled on May 5, Monday, at 4:30pm with the venue to be announced at a later date.



JON PEREZ

Action in the high school division of the Private School League opens today with Marianas Baptist Academy aiming to defend its title.



GEC Pawnshop demolish MIGS

GEC Pawnshop created an early four-way tie for the lead in the Inaugural FMI Inter-Color Basketball League after a 111-76 demolition of MIGS on Sunday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

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Saipan Tribune Sports

Davidson's magic run ends against Kansas

Stephen Curry darted this way, faked that way. Nothing open, and the bright red numbers on the clock getting close to zero. He was the right guy—the only guy—to take the biggest shot of the NCAA tournament.

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28 TUESDAY, APRIL 1, 2008

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Fiesta-Grand, PIC advance to finals

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

Fiesta-Grand Hotel and Pacific Islands Club, which finished 1-2 in the standings, made sure there would be new teams that would play in the 2nd Annual HANMI Cup Inter-Hotel Basketball League championship after vanquishing last year's finalists in Sunday's playoffs at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Fiesta-Grand, which won the pennant with a league-best 11-1 slate, eked out a nail-biting 118-116 win over Hyatt Regency Saipan, while PIC dethroned the back-to-back title seeking Aqua Resort Club, 79-70.

Fiesta-Grand and PIC will face-off in the HANMI Cup one-game final on Sunday, April 6, at 4:30pm after the 3pm battle for third between Hyatt and Aqua Resort.

The league is being sponsored by Titans Chivas Life, PTI, Coca-Cola Bottlers Micronesia, and Western Sales Trading Company.

Elmer Esdreton and Ryan Sanciango played the heroes role for Fiesta-Grand, which nearly blew a double-digit spread in the final 10 minutes of the game.

Fiesta-Grand led by as much as 14 points in the final period but failed to stop a furious Hyatt rally led by their own dynamic



Pacific Islands Club's Raymond Tolentino, left, and Fiesta Grand Hotel's Elmer Esdreton are shown here in file photos after their teams advanced to the finals of the 2nd Annual HANMI Cup Inter-Hotel Basketball League following wins over Aqua Resort Club and Hyatt Regency Saipan Sunday night at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

duo of Edmark Mendoza and Mike Umali, who combined for 22 markers.

Fiesta-Grand was still leading at 116-114 in the final 30 seconds when Hyatt scored on a Magno Abaya short stab to tie the game. Fiesta-Grand failed to convert at the other end giv-

ing Hyatt the chance to win the game and a return trip to the finals.

But Bernard Aquino blew their chance for an upset when he lost ball possession from the quick hands of Esdreton, who then made an outlet pass to a streaking Sanciango to score



JON PEREZ

the winning basket.

Sanciango led all scorers, erupting for a season-high 41 points in leading Fiesta-Grand to victory. He had 33 points in the first three quarters where Fiesta-Grand enjoyed several double-digit leads.

Sanciango's previous sea-

son-high was 40 in a 110-96 clipping of Hafadai Beach Hotel on Feb. 27.

Esdreton provided scoring support to Sanciango, finishing with 32 points while William Opono tallied 18 more. Edilberto Carino came off the bench

See FIESTA-GRAND on Page 26

Camacho, Dolphins drown Jets in Senior League

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER



Tomás Camacho pitched a complete game as

the PTI Dolphins scored a 6-3 triumph over the Juan S. Tenorio-Pacific Amusement Jets in the Senior League of the Saipan Little League on Saturday at the Francisco M. Palacios Baseball Field.

Camacho gave up two earned runs on five hits with no strikeouts and three walks as he allowed the Dolphins to hit grounders, fly balls, and line drives.

He even pitched four scoreless innings but his bid for a shutout ended in the fifth inning when Marvin Kaipat, with one out, scored the Jets' first run on an error.

Camacho walked Juan Iguel then John Pangelinan flied out to left field for the second out. A Dave Camacho triple allowed Iguel to score the Jets' second run.

Dave Camacho, however, was tagged out at home on a 6-2 putout play on an Ike Aldan fielder's choice to end the inning.

Ofero Taitano went 3-for-4 with a triple, a run and two RBIs, while Jonathan Celis went perfect, 2-for-2, with

See CAMACHO on Page 26

Noble wins XTERRA Guam; Torgeson, Carey finish strong



Carey

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER



Aussie Andrew Noble added the 2008 XTERRA Guam to his resume of wins in the Marianas region when he topped the March 29 race held in Piti, Guam.

Saipan was well represented with Eli Torgeson finishing second overall to Noble, while Mieko Carey came in fourth behind the Top 3 male finishers.

Noble, who won the 7th XTERRA Saipan Championship and successfully defending his title in the 19th Tagaman Triathlon last month, completed the XTERRA Guam course in two hours, 13 minutes and 57 seconds.

XTERRA Guam is composed of a 1-kilometer swim with two 500-meter loops at Apra Harbor; a 27-kilometer mountain bike that began in Piti and climbing up Nimitz Hill through the terrains of Mt. Alutom before winding down to Mannengon Hills; and a 7-km trail run, which serves as XTERRA Guam's highlight bringing runners to slippery water falls and waist-high jungle river sections.

Noble finished the swim in 15:12 and had a 43-second transition to the bike leg, which he completed in a blistering time of 1:17:25. He completed the race 40 minutes and 14 seconds after a 23-second split at the run.

Torgeson finished second overall to Noble as he tried to shadow the

See NOBLE on Page 26



Noble

Six-run 5th lifts Rock Steady past D9ers

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER



Rock Steady used a six-run scoring rally in the fifth as enough breathing room to coast to a 16-3 win over the San Roque D9ers in last Friday's game in the 3rd Annual Budweiser-Saipan Major League at the Francisco M. Palacios Baseball Field.

Tim Mafnas lasted for five innings, giving up two earned runs on five hits while striking out seven batters and walking two more to help Rock Steady win its fifth straight game, while dealing D9ers their second loss in four matches.

The win allowed Rock Steady to enjoy a two-game lead over

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